Lab Activity: Properties of Acids and Bases

Purpose: To describe the characteristics of two groups of chemicals known as acids and

bases.

Materials: spot plates droppers toothpick litmus paper pH paper phenophthalein bromothymol NaHCO₃

small pieces of magnesium

Solutions: Hydrochloric acid Sodium hydroxide solution Distilled water

1. Place 10 drops of the acid solution in 4 wells of the first column DOWN

2. Place 10 drops of the base solution in the 4 wells of the next column

3. Place 10 drops of the water in the 4 wells of the next column

4. To the first row ACROSS, add one drop of phenophthalein. Record the colour

5. To the second row ACROSS, add a tiny portion of baking soda using the toothpick. Look for gas production.

6. To the third row ACROSS, add a tiny piece of magnesium. Look for gas prod.

7. To the fourth row ACROSS, add a tiny piece of litmus paper. Record the colour. Add a tiny piece of pH paper. Record the colour and number of the reading. Add 1 drop of bromothymol blue. Record the colour.

Observations:

Note your observations for each of the reactions neatly in the chart below.

	l Hydrochloric Acid	2 Sodium Hydroxide	3 Water		
A: Phenophthalein	10				
B: NaHCO ₃					
C: Magnesium	Name the gas.		,		
	Nane the gasi	0			
D: i) Litmus Paper					
ii) pH paper					
iii) Bromothymol Blue					

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1. List the 3 solutions from the lowest pH to the highest pH.

2. What pH is a) neutral? _____; b) acidic? ____; c) basic? ____ 3. A) What type of substance produced a gas when it reacted with the baking soda? Magnesium? B) What gas was released in each case? 4. A) What is an indicator? B) Complete the following summary chart for the colour of the indicator in each solution type. Indicator Acid Base Water litmus pH paper pheno. bromothymol 5. A) List any ADDITIONAL properties of acids and bases that you did not observe during this lab activity.