

# Vocabulary

*Study the vocabulary words and definitions below.*

**acid (acidic)** ..... a compound that joins with a base to form a salt; will cause blue litmus paper to turn red; high concentration of  $H^+$  ions

**base (basic)** ..... a compound that joins with an acid to form a salt; will cause red litmus paper to turn blue; high concentration of  $OH^-$  ions

**brackish** ..... having a lower salinity than normal seawater; a mixture of freshwater and saltwater

**buffer** ..... chemical compound that maintains pH level through chemical reactions

**condense** ..... to change from a gas or vapor to a liquid

**crystallization** ..... a method of desalination involving the freezing of water and then removing the ice crystals to produce freshwater

**desalination** ..... a process by which salt is removed from seawater

**distillation** ..... a method of desalination involving the evaporation of water with high heat and then condensing it by cooling

**evaporate** ..... to change from a liquid into a gas or vapor

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**filtration** ..... a method of desalination which involves filtering water through special membranes or materials

**hydrologic cycle** ..... the movement of water from the oceans and the land to the atmosphere and then back; also called the *water cycle*, nature's recycling of freshwater  
*Example:* water evaporates into the air, condenses, and falls back to the ground as precipitation.

**hypersaline** ..... water with high levels of salinity

**ion** ..... an electrically charged atom or molecule formed by gaining or losing one or more electrons

**pH** ..... a measure of the concentration of hydrogen ions ( $H^+$ ) in a solution expressed as a scale, ranging from less than zero to more than 14, that in turn expresses the concentration of acid or base

**sodium chloride** ..... NaCl (chemical formula); common table salt; the most common salt in seawater

**thermocline** ..... a layer of water in the ocean where the temperature of the water changes rapidly

**water vapor** ..... water in the form of gas