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Activities

Water's Special Properties

Name: _____ Date: _____

Water is vital to living things. Its essential role has a lot to do with its special properties, both physical and chemical. You'll take a closer look in this Planet Diary activity.

Directions

- What makes water so special? To find out, go to water properties from USGS Water Science. Read the introduction, then the description of water's physical and chemical properties. The Workspace table has descriptions of some of these properties. Decide if each property is physical or chemical to fill in the blanks.
- Now that you're a water expert, try this quiz on water's properties.

Workspace

Description of Property	Physical or Chemical?
A water molecule's positive and negative electrical charges attract each other.	
Water is the only natural substance found in all three states (liquid, solid, and gas).	
Water boils at 212 degrees Fahrenheit at sea level but at 186.4 degrees F at 14,000 feet.	
A water molecule has one oxygen atom and two hydrogen atoms bonded together.	
Water can absorb a large amount of heat before it gets hot.	
Pure water has a neutral pH of 7.0.	
Water has a density of 1 gram per cubic centimeter at 39.2 degrees Fahrenheit.	
Unlike other substances, water's solid form (ice) is less dense than its liquid form and so it floats.	

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