Name _____

Discovering Bases: Their Characteristics, Taste, and Texture

Short Answer Key

1. Alkalinity refers to the property of bases having a pH above 7 on the pH scale, distinguishing them from acids. Bases with higher pH values are considered stronger bases.
2. Bases generally have a bitter taste. An example of a common base with a bitter taste is baking soda (sodium bicarbonate).
3. Bases exhibit a slippery or soapy texture when touched due to their reaction with oils and fats on the skin. This sensation is caused by the formation of soap molecules, which have hydrophilic and hydrophobic ends.
4. Bases are commonly used in household cleaning products, soaps, and detergents. Their alkaline properties help in breaking down and removing oils, stains, and dirt.
5. Bases differ from acids in taste, with bases generally having a bitter taste, while acids have a sour taste. Bases also have a slippery or soapy texture when touched, which is not characteristic of acids. Bases increase the pH of a solution, making it more alkaline, while acids decrease the pH, making it more acidic.