

# Today in Chemistry History

9<sup>th</sup> January – Søren Sørensen's birthday (1868) and the pH scale



**Søren Sørensen**

**Born**

9 January 1868

**Died**

12 February 1939

$$\text{pH} = -\log_{10}[\text{H}^+]$$

Sørensen came up with the pH scale to measure hydrogen ion concentrations in solutions while working at the Carlsberg research lab in Copenhagen.

## The pH scale and what it means



The pH scale typically runs from 0 to 14 and is a way of measuring how acidic or alkaline a solution is. It's a logarithmic scale, so a change of one represents a ten times increase or decrease in acidity or alkalinity. A neutral solution has an equal concentration of hydrogen and hydroxide ions; this is usually at pH 7, but can vary slightly depending on temperature.

