

SC.912.L.18.12 – Properties of Water – Example 4 Answer

Water is often called the "universal solvent" because many substances can be dissolved in water. What property of water allows it to be such a versatile solvent?

- A. purity**
- B. polarity and cohesion**
- C. high heat capacity**
- D. expansion upon freezing**

Answer

B. polarity and cohesion

Water molecules are polar. This means that they have slight positive and negatively charged ends. Water molecules are attracted to a wide variety of molecules because of those charges and thus, acts as a solvent for a variety of compounds.