

Lab: Making Medieval Messes

The year is 1450. You are the chemist for a small town in Europe. One of the villagers has brought you two flasks; one contains an acid, and the other contains a base. The problem is that the labels have fallen off of the flasks, and he doesn't know which flask contains what solution.

As town chemist, your job is to determine which of the flasks contains acid and which contains base. Because of your limited technology, you have only the following materials:

Acidic solution

Basic solution

Extract of cabbage

Test tubes

Goggles (These you must use, no matter how you solve the problem!)

Good luck!