

## SECTION OVERVIEW

### 12.16: The Properties of a Group: The Alkali Metals

**Alkali metals** are the chemical elements found in Group 1 of the periodic table. The alkali metals include: lithium, sodium, potassium, rubidium, cesium, and francium. Although often listed in Group 1 due to its electronic configuration, hydrogen is not technically an alkali metal since it rarely exhibits similar behavior. The word "alkali" received its name from the Arabic word "al qali," meaning "from ashes", which since these elements react with water to form hydroxide ions, creating **alkaline solutions** ( $\text{pH} > 7$ ).

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