Name _____ Per ____

Water Purification Methods

Waterborne illness kill millions of people around the world every year, and depending on the source, water may also be contaminated with toxic chemicals or heavy metals. Both considerations make proper water treatment very important. Large municipal water sources are generally treated using some combination of filtration and chemical purification. Bottled water might be made using steam distillation, but is most often produced through reverse osmosis. Observe the methods demonstrated in the lab, fill in the chart below, and answer the questions on the back.

Describe how each method works, and list some of the pros and cons. Consider things like cost, energy use, necessary equipment, side effects, and human involvement. Note this is not a complete list.

	Description	Pros	Cons
Filtration			
Distillation			
Chemical			

1. Describe a water treatment method that was not demonstrated in the lab.

2. Which method do you think is the best for a city? Explain your reasoning.

3. How is your water treated? If you're on city water, look up the Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility website. If you're on a well, you might have to ask someone at home.