

Name:

Date:

Class:

Lesson 6: Splish, Splash, I was Takin' a Bath – Desalination Handout – Extension Activity

Directions

Read the following selection on desalination (“desalting” salt water). In the column titled “Notes” below, write notes about the three methods of desalinating water.

What is Desalination?

In some areas where freshwater is scarce, systems of reservoirs, pumps and purifying equipment have been constructed to desalinate (or “desalt”) the water. These systems remove the salt from seawater or, in some cases, groundwater that is high in mineral content. The three main methods used by such facilities are distilling, crystallizing and filtering.

In the *distilling* process, salt water is heated until the water evaporates leaving behind the salt and other minerals. The water vapor is condensed, providing freshwater. In the *crystallizing* process, the salt water is frozen in such a way that salt-free ice is formed. The ice is thawed to provide freshwater. In the *filtering* process, special membrane filters are used to allow freshwater to pass through, but traps the salt. Although new technology has made desalting more efficient, the process is still very expensive.

Methods of Desalting Water	Notes
Distilling	
Crystallizing	
Filtering	

Adapted from: Glencoe Science: An Introduction to the Life, Earth and Physical Sciences, Student Edition, Blacklick, Ohio: Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, 2002