**What’s in the Water Benchmarking Activity**

**Instructions:** Please answer these questions without looking anything up, to take stock of what you already know or believe about these topics. You might draw from things you’ve heard in the news, in prior classes, or even from friends or family members. When complete, upload this activity to your Unit 2 Google Drive folder.

***Why:*** *Remember that this benchmarking activity will serve as a primary form of evidence at the end of the unit to show, and help you track, what you’ve learned. Therefore, the more detail you include now, the easier it will be to pinpoint changes at the end. Also, learning research shows that “activating prior knowledge” helps make learning stick by highlighting foundations we’re building on, helping us learn more from the lessons to come.*

1. How does water move through the Earth system? What are the major “reservoirs” where water is stored? How do contaminants move into these reservoirs (what sources of pollution impact them, and where do the pollutants come from)?
2. Where does our drinking water come from? What types of treatment does it go through to get to us? How safe is it when it arrives?
3. How do scientists come to understand water contaminants, their source, and their effects? What does it take for scientists to establish a causal link between contamination and health effects?
4. At what level of the government should water contamination/pollution be regulated (federal/national, state, county, city) and why? Who should pay to remediate water contamination and why?
5. Do all citizens bear the burden of water contamination/pollution equally? Why or why not? What does this burden look like, or what effects does it have?
6. What can/should we do, as citizens, to protect and advocate for drinking water safety if we learn about a water crisis in our town or our region?
7. What other questions do you have about water and water contamination/pollution that you hope we might explore during this unit?