



## *What's the Matter with My Orange?* *Background Information*



# *The Water Cycle*

### *What is it?*

*Water Cycle* is a phrase that describes the flow of water on the Earth. Usually we think of this as water evaporating into the air; condensing into clouds; precipitating downward; and collecting on the Earth, and then the process starts all over again. While this is true, there are many more aspects of the water cycle to consider. The human role in the water cycle, percolation of water in the soil, and transpiration of water through plants are just a few of the many other ways water cycles on the Earth.

### *How does it relate to this activity?*

Oranges store moisture within their skins. The unjarred oranges evaporate their moisture into the air through transpiration. This can be inferred as students observe a smaller mass and size in these oranges over the first several weeks. The jarred oranges also evaporate their moisture, but the sealed jar prevents this moisture from escaping. As a result, evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and collection all occur within the sealed jar.