

# Does an orange slice decompose more quickly in wet or dry dirt?

In the *Waterford Early Math and Science*<sup>TM</sup> Ecosystem Experiment, your child learned that some things decompose when they are buried; other things do not decompose. Your child also learned that anything that grows naturally will decompose under the right conditions. Worms, fungus, and bacteria help decomposition. Things decompose more slowly in landfills than when they are composted.

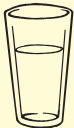
## What You Need



two identical containers  
(jars, flower pots, cans, etc.)



dry soil



water



orange slices  
(of equal size)



My Home Science Journal

## ① Make a Hypothesis

Before you begin the experiment, predict what you think will happen. Draw a picture of your prediction on your My Home Science Journal page.

## ② Do an Experiment

Fill the two containers with the same amount of soil. Bury equally sized orange sections at the same depth in each container. Keep the soil in one container damp and leave the soil in the other one dry. Check the oranges after one week. Check the oranges after two weeks. Draw a picture of the experiment on your My Home Science Journal page.

## ③ Draw a Conclusion

Did the orange decompose more quickly in wet or dry dirt? Draw a picture of what happened on your My Home Science Journal page.

## More Ideas to Try

Use the scientific method to answer one of the following questions: Will my orange slice decompose more quickly in potting soil or in natural dirt? Do worms help decompose oranges?