



## MINI WATER-WORLD

Learn all about the ups and downs of water

### SETTING THE SCENE

Water is vital to life. It comes out of the sky as rain. But how does it get up there in the first place?

And what influences how much of it comes down? Make a mini-system to see how water gets from the soil up into the clouds and back down again. In fact, make two – one with vegetation, one without. The experiment has to be done over several weeks, so needs some advance planning. It can even be made to last all term – the class's very own pet ecosystem!

### WHAT YOU NEED

- ◆ Two transparent containers with lids, for example large glass pickle jars or plastic tubs (they should be identical to each other)
- ◆ Soil with some sand or gravel well mixed in to ensure good drainage
- ◆ Seeds that quickly germinate, such as herbs or beans
- ◆ Water (ideally from a spray bottle)

### WHAT TO DO

1. Place the same quantity of soil in each container – you can measure it out with a cup
2. Moisten the soil by adding equal amounts of water to each container. Make sure it is moist but not waterlogged
3. Leave one container with just the water, but in the other sow the seeds (according to the packet instructions). This container with plants in is known as a terrarium
4. Water the seeds in by gently spraying them, then close both systems by putting the lids on the containers
5. Place the containers side by side in a sunny position, but not in direct sunlight
6. Each day look at your containers and note where and how the water appears in them. Is it on the lid and sides of the container? Does the soil still appear to be moist? Does it look like it has been raining? Or does it remind you of other weather conditions?
7. Get the class to record their observations, looking out for differences between the two containers and making notes on how warm and sunny it is where the containers are kept
8. Every few weeks the containers may require additional watering. Ensure they receive the same amount

