

Notes for Ecological Succession

Succession – A change in an ecosystem, overtime.

Primary Succession – When an ecosystem begins from bare rock, no soil is present. (Volcanic island)

Pioneer Species – first species to populate an ecosystem (lichen → Moss)

Intermediate Species – Species that can tolerate a lot of light
(grass → shrubs → light tolerant trees (pine trees))

Climax Community – final dominant species (hardwoods – shade tolerant)

Type of plants and animals present is determined by abiotic factors such as temperature and precipitation.

Secondary Succession – When an ecosystem begins to bounce back after a major disturbance – fire or returning farmland back to nature. Soil is already present, so the pioneer stage is a lot shorter.