

Chapter 14.5 Ecological Succession

Part I: Explain how a forest ecosystem goes through a cycle of birth, growth, maturity, stability and death.

Part II: Use the following words and phrases to fill in the blanks with the best possible match. You will use several of the terms more than once.

ecosystem

pioneer organisms

climax community

diversity

primary succession

succession

lichens

secondary succession

1. A forest of pine trees is burned over a 10 mile area when lightning strikes a tree. In the spring, a few seedlings are begin to sprout. _____
2. A glacier has scraped all soil from a rocky area. As it slowly retreats, some of the rock is broken down by weathering. Some moss begins to grow. _____
3. A small symbiotic organism secretes acid into the rock to anchor itself in place.

4. The old-growth forest has remained the same combination of hickories and oaks for 100 years.

5. Small organisms, such as lichens, help break up bare rock into soil. _____
6. This may take hundreds or thousands of years. _____
7. A pond slowly fills in as algae and other plants die and fall to the bottom. _____
8. A volcano erupts creating a new island. After a few years, small plants begin to grow.

9. This term describes a community of organisms and the biotic factors (air, water, etc.) that make up the environment in which they live. _____
10. Sand dunes, ponds, oak trees and coral reefs are examples of _____.