

Ecological Succession

Directions: Complete the following sentences using the terms listed below. Terms are only used once.

primary secondary succession pioneer climax

1. The gradual change from one community of organisms to another is ecological _____.
2. Succession that takes place in a forest that has been destroyed by fire is an example of _____ succession.
3. The first organisms to move into a disturbed environment are the _____ species.
4. A community that tends to remain the same and is in the final stage of succession is a _____ community.
5. Ecological succession that takes place in a location that does not have soil is _____ succession.
6. *Number the following sentences (1-4) describing primary succession so that they are in the correct order.*
 - _____ a. Mosses and ferns grow in soil formed by decaying lichens
 - _____ b. Thicker, richer soil supports the growth of shrubs and trees. Insects, small birds, and mammals move in.
 - _____ c. Eventually, the soil layer thickens and grasses, wildflowers, and other plants begin to take over.
 - _____ d. Life on a bare rock begins as lichens and the forces of weather and erosion help break down rocks in to smaller pieces to form soil.
7. Which takes longer, primary succession or secondary succession?

