**STUDY QUESTIONS:**

**What** is ecological succession? (DOK1)

**How** do pioneer species affect the succession of an ecosystem? (DOK2)

**Compare and contrast** primary and secondary succession. (DOK3)

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**NOTES:**

- ________________ is the natural, gradual changes in the types of species that live in an area
  - Can be ________________ or ________________
  - The gradual ________________ of one plant community by another through natural processes over time
- ________________ are a group of organisms, such as ________________, found in the primary stage of succession and that begin an area's ________________ process.

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**Primary Succession:** The establishment of new community where none existed before.

- Organisms are driven away or killed by some type of **disturbance** like a forest fire, leaving behind only the soil.
- Pioneer species, like grasses and weeds, begin to grow from the soil. Roots and seeds left over may also begin to grow again.
- Some pioneers species die and are replace or outcompeted by other species like shrubs and small trees.
- Small and Large trees begin to grow, and the community reaches an equilibrium or balance. This results in a climax community.

**Secondary Succession:** The reestablishment of community following disturbance.

- A ________________ is a stable group of plants and animals that is the end result of the succession process
- Does not always mean big trees (Grasses in prairies or Cacti in deserts
- ________________ are a single species that is not usually numerous in a community but exerts strong control on the structure of the community.
- If the population of a keystone species ________________ it can have ________________ on the other species in the community.

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**SUMMARY:**