

Succession In Ecosystems :

- succession is a series of slow changes in an environment over time as species come and go, and the abiotic factors that change in the area.
- the first populations to move into a new environment are called “**pioneer species**”
- all ecosystems change over time, they become more complex
- the whole point behind succession is to develop a community that is the best suited one for a set of abiotic conditions (whatever that community is can be called the “**climax community**” for the area)

There are two kinds of succession...

Primary- a brand new environment (no soil) is started, with no life.

Ex. Surtsey, near Iceland, in 1963, a brand new island.

Ex. Lava from a volcano cools and

makes a new area of sterile rock

The slow first steps of this process is the making of new soil.

How is soil first made ?

- erosion, sand deposited by the ocean, wind, weathering
- lichens are introduced by birds and wind
- they break rock apart, and decompose when they die
- seeds are introduced by birds and weather, plant community begins to grow.

Secondary Succession -

a community of plants and animals already exists, and it is disturbed by some kind of change (caused by us or by other creatures, or sometimes by nonliving factors like weather). The community then has to react to this change, and makes a new community for the new environment (some species may get smaller, other get bigger, some may disappear, or a new one might arrive).