



Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
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We Are a Family on this Earth through Earth's Resources

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This curriculum unit is called "We are a family on this Earth through Earth's resources." I will be covering successions of ecosystems. There are two types of succession of ecosystems.

In primary succession, an ecosystem is starting fresh with no previous plantation to grow from. Primary succession happens when a volcano erupts and lava spills out over the ground and covers the ground with lava. When that lava dries and cools down, it becomes bare rock or when a glacier melts and land that was once frozen is now able to grow producers.

The weather breaks down the rock with rain and wind erodes the rock away. That is when an ecosystem is fully thriving again and can support all the consumers' needs and the environment has biodiversity in it. This process takes about one hundred to one hundred fifty years, sometimes it takes hundred years, to reach a climax community.

In secondary succession, the process to reach full climax community takes a shorter time, about half the time of primary succession. An ecosystem that is in secondary succession may take as little as fifty years to one hundred years to achieve full climax community in an ecosystem. The reason being is that these places already have the soil and the plantation to regrow itself. It takes less time to achieve what it needs to than an environment that is starting from scratch. An ecosystem is fully thriving again and can support all the consumers' needs, and the environment has biodiversity in it. This process takes about one hundred to one hundred fifty years, to reach a climax community.

(Developed for Science, grades 6-8; recommended for Science, grades 4, 5, and 9)

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