**Ecological Succession Webquest Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_**

***\*Go to my blog and open this document to click on the hyperlinks.***

**Part 1 - Succession Background Knowledge**

The purpose of this part of the webquest is for you to gain more background knowledge about ecological succession. Answer the questions below in your notebook.

**Introductory video**

* Watch the video about "[Primary and Secondary Succession](http://geowords.org/ensci/imagesbook/04_03_succession.swf)" to get your brain started!
* If you have headphones, use 'em!

**Online Reading about Succession**

Read the online textbook to learn more about succession. Click the section called "[**Change in Communities Over Time**](http://www.emc.maricopa.edu/faculty/farabee/biobk/BioBookcommecosys.html#Table%20of%20Contents)," and answer the following questions.

1. Define **succession**briefly.
2. What is **primary succession?**
3. What type of disturbances would create a primary succession situation in an ecosystem?
4. What is **secondary succession?**
5. What type of disturbances would create a secondary succession situation in an ecosystem?
6. Is the **climax community** always the same for a given ecosystem? Explain!
7. Continue reading the next section, "Disturbance of a community." How do humans affect an ecosystem?
8. Watch the slides about succession in the [Pacific Northwest](http://ecoplexity.org/node/496), and make note of the following:
   1. Which pioneer species are surprising to you? ‘None’ is not an acceptable answer.
   2. How long does it take to reach a climax community?
   3. What is one question you have about succession? (You may NOT answer ‘none’)

**Part 2 - Apply What You Learned**

Complete this part. Due at the end of class. Choose ONE of the succession simulations below to investigate thoroughly. If the resources I have provided are not sufficient, feel free to do an internet search to find more information!

**Mount Saint Helens**

Mount Saint Helens erupted in 1980, and while it devastated the surrounding land and property, it was a unique opportunity for ecologists to study primary succession. Use the two links to answer the questions below.

1. Describe the plant/animal community that was present before the eruption.
2. Describe the pioneer species that helped start the succession process after the eruption of Mt. St. Helens.
3. How long do you think it will take for Mt. St. Helens to reach a climax community? Explain your answer.

[Mount Saint Helens report.pdf](http://mshallarvadahs.pbworks.com/f/Mount+Saint+Helens+report.pdf) 

[Mount Saint Helens Succession Photos](http://content.lib.washington.edu/mtsthelensweb/index.html)

**The Hayman Fire**

The Hayman Fire occurred in June, 2002, here in Colorado, and was one of the worst fires in Colorado (and western United States) history. It also provides an opportunity for scientists to study succession and fire regimes of the Ponderosa Pine ecosystem. Use the report to answer ALL the questions below.

1. Describe the plant/animal community that was present before the fire.
2. Describe the pioneer species that helped start the succession process after the Hayman Fire.
3. Is fire a normal part of the ecosystem where the Hayman Fire occurred? Explain your answer.
4. How long do you think it will take for the Hayman Fire area to reach a climax community? Explain your answer.

[hayman fire report.pdf](http://mshallarvadahs.pbworks.com/f/hayman+fire+report.pdf)

*Twas brillig, and the slithy toves  
  Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:  
All mimsy were the borogoves,  
  And the mome raths outgrabe.*

 -Lewis Carroll