

Ecological Succession — Primary, Secondary and Climax Communities

Use this worksheet after reading the lesson to practise the key ideas and prove you can meet the success criteria.

Name _____

Date _____

Class _____

1. Key Ideas

In the summer of 2019–20, the Black Summer fires burned 24 million hectares of Australia — an area the size of the United Kingdom. Temperate forests that had stood for centuries were reduced to ash. But beneath the blackened trunks, something was already happening. Seeds dormant for decades burst open. Epicormic buds beneath charred bark sprouted green shoots. Within weeks, the forest began rebuilding itself. This is ecological succession — nature’s process of recovery and rebirth.

- Key facts and terms for Ecological Succession — Primary, Secondary and Climax Communities
- How the main ideas in Ecological Succession — Primary, Secondary and Climax Communities connect

2. Success Criteria

By the end, you should be able to:

- Key facts and terms for Ecological Succession — Primary, Secondary and Climax Communities
- Where this lesson fits in Module 4
- How the main ideas in Ecological Succession — Primary, Secondary and Climax Communities connect

3. Key Terms

Key idea

The central concept from Ecological Succession — Primary, Secondary and Climax Communities.

Evidence

Information, observations or calculations used to support an answer.

Explain

Give a reasoned answer that links cause and effect.

Apply

Use a learned idea in a new example, problem or scenario.

4. Activity: Build the Lesson Map

Use the lesson to complete the table. Keep answers brief but specific.

Prompt	Your answer
Main concept	
Important example	
Common mistake to avoid	
How this links to the next lesson	

5. Short Answer Questions

1. Q1. The Black Summer fires burned a eucalyptus forest to the ground. The soil is still present, but all above-ground vegetation is gone. Predict what you would see if you visited the same spot in 6 months, 5 years, and 50 years. What species would appear first, and what would the final community look like?

BAND 3 **3 MARKS**

2. Q2. A volcanic eruption creates a new island of bare lava rock with no soil. Predict how this island would differ in its recovery trajectory compared to the burned forest. Which would recover faster, and why?

BAND 4 **3 MARKS**

3. Q1. The Black Summer fires burned a eucalyptus forest to the ground. The soil is still present, but all above-ground vegetation is gone. Predict what you would see if you visited the same spot in 6 months, 5 years, and 50 years. What species would appear first, and what would the final community look like?

BAND 5 **3 MARKS**

6. Extend: Apply the Idea

BAND 5/6

5 MARKS

A student gives a memorised answer about Ecological Succession — Primary, Secondary and Climax Communities but does not use evidence or reasoning.

Improve the answer by writing a stronger response that uses accurate terminology, a relevant example and a clear explanation.

7. Multiple Choice

1. What is the best first step when answering a question about Ecological Succession — Primary, Secondary and Climax Communities?

- A. Identify the key concept being tested
- B. Write every fact from memory
- C. Ignore the command word
- D. Skip examples and evidence

2. Which answer would show stronger understanding of Ecological Succession — Primary, Secondary and Climax Communities?

- A. An answer with accurate terms and reasoning
- B. A copied definition only
- C. A single-word response
- D. An answer with no example

3. What should you do if a question asks you to explain?

- A. Link the idea to a reason or cause
- B. List unrelated facts
- C. Only draw a diagram
- D. Write the shortest possible answer

8. Success Criteria Proof

Finish with evidence that you can do each success criterion.

SUCCESS CRITERION 1

Prove that you can: Key facts and terms for Ecological Succession — Primary, Secondary and Climax Communities

BAND 3 **2 MARKS**

SUCCESS CRITERION 2

Prove that you can: Where this lesson fits in Module 4

BAND 4 **3 MARKS**

SUCCESS CRITERION 3

Prove that you can: How the main ideas in Ecological Succession — Primary, Secondary and Climax Communities connect

BAND 5 **4 MARKS**

One thing I still need help with:
