

## Chapter 5 Section 3 Notes

### How Ecosystems Change

**Ecological Succession** – a gradual process of change and replacement of the types of species in a community

**Primary Succession** – a type of succession that occurs on a surface where no ecosystem existed before

Occurs after things like volcanic eruptions

**Pioneer species** – the first organisms to colonize any newly available area and begin the process of ecological succession

ex) lichens would be the pioneer species on newly formed volcanic islands

lichens are producers that break down rock creating soils.

**Secondary Succession** – a common type of succession that occurs on a surface where an ecosystem has previously existed.

Occurs after natural processes like floods

**Old-field Succession** – type of succession that occurs on abandoned farmland

Let's assume a farm is abandoned and left undisturbed...

After 150 years, you would expect to find tall, mature oak trees

### Fire and Secondary Succession

**Climax community** – a final and stable community