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Crash Course - ECOLOGY

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Crash Course Ecology #6: Ecological Succession

Name: _____ Date: _____

You can access the video here → <https://youtu.be/gZKlHe2LDp8?si=Sy4ofbeDG3SSyzV>

1. A major ecological disturbance that wipes out most life can lead to _____, the process of change in the species structure of an ecological community over time.
2. _____ succession occurs when organisms colonize an area for the first time, such as after a volcanic eruption or glacial retreat.
3. The first organisms to colonize a lifeless area during primary succession are known as _____ species.
4. _____ succession happens after a smaller disturbance in an area that already had life, like a flood or tree fall.
5. The main goal of primary succession is to build or rebuild _____, which supports future plant life.
6. Plants with wind-borne seeds or spores, like mosses and lichens, are typical of _____ successional species.
7. The recovery of gymnosperm forests after the Permian-Triassic Extinction took approximately _____ million years.
8. The concept that ecosystems never truly stabilize but are always changing is tied to the idea that _____ is the only constant.
9. The outdated idea that succession ends in a stable and unchanging ecosystem is known as a _____ community.
10. The term _____ refers to the random, unpredictable variability in ecological outcomes.
11. A disturbance that is not too extreme but not too mild is considered an _____ disturbance, which tends to increase biodiversity.
12. The _____ Disturbance Hypothesis suggests that moderate disturbances are ideal for maintaining healthy ecosystems.
13. An ecosystem made up of many small communities with specific niches is called a _____ of habitats.
14. Allowing natural disturbances like fire to occur can prevent _____ fires by reducing accumulated vegetation.
15. More biodiversity creates more stability because it allows ecosystems to fill a wider variety of _____.

Crash Course Ecology #6: Ecological Succession KEY

1. A major ecological disturbance that wipes out most life can lead to **ecological succession**, the process of change in the species structure of an ecological community over time.
2. **Primary** succession occurs when organisms colonize an area for the first time, such as after a volcanic eruption or glacial retreat.
3. The first organisms to colonize a lifeless area during primary succession are known as **pioneer** species.
4. **Secondary** succession happens after a **smaller** disturbance in an area that already had life, like a flood or tree fall.
5. The main goal of primary succession is to build or rebuild **soils**, which supports future plant life.
6. Plants with wind-borne seeds or spores, like mosses and lichens, are typical of **primary** successional species.
7. The recovery of gymnosperm forests after the Permian-Triassic Extinction took approximately **4 to 5** million years.
8. The concept that ecosystems never truly stabilize but are always changing is tied to the idea that **change** is the only constant.
9. The outdated idea that succession ends in a stable and unchanging ecosystem is known as a **climax** community.
10. The term **stochasticity** refers to the random, unpredictable variability in ecological outcomes.
11. A disturbance that is not too extreme but not too mild is considered an **intermediate** disturbance, which tends to increase biodiversity.
12. The **Intermediate Disturbance Hypothesis** suggests that moderate disturbances are ideal for maintaining healthy ecosystems.
13. An ecosystem made up of many small communities with specific niches is called a **mosaic** of habitats.
14. Allowing natural disturbances like fire to occur can prevent **catastrophic** fires by reducing accumulated vegetation.
15. More biodiversity creates more stability because it allows ecosystems to fill a wider variety of **niches**.

15 Questions

Answer Key Included

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