

2 Succession and disturbance – Part 2 — Answers

Answers

Work through these after you have tried the questions yourself.

2.1 primary succession starts on bare rock with no soil; secondary succession follows a disturbance that leaves the soil behind.

2.2 primary succession must first build soil from bare rock (a slow process), while secondary succession already has soil ready.

2.3 lichens – they colonise bare rock and slowly help build soil.

2.4 a species whose activities hold a community together, so removing it can cause the whole community to collapse.

2.5 it disappears (or its health declines) when conditions worsen, so its absence signals pollution – for example, lichens vanish where the air is dirty.