

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.