Succession and Biodiversity Notes 2/4/2013

**succession**- the gradual replacement of one plant community by another through natural processes

**primary succession**- succession that occurs without any soil, bare rock

-starts with the arrival of living things such as lichens that do not need soil to survive

-lichens use moisture on rock to live

-soil starts to form as lichens break apart rock and decompose

-after volcanic eruption, formation of a new island by cooled magma, after glacial movement,

landslide, flooding

**pioneer species**-first species of living organism to inhabit an area during either primary or secondary succession

**secondary succession**- already has soil

-after a fire

-occurs faster than primary succession and has different pioneer species such as small plants

**climax community**- the last community to occupy an environment and will not be replaced

-a stable group of plants and animals that is the end result of the succession process

-does not always mean big trees, climax community characteristics depend on environmental

factors. example-desert climax community different than forest climax community

**biodiversity**- different living organisms, having a variety of different types of organisms

-more biodiversity = more stable ecosystem

-more biodiversity ensures stability of ecosystem by allowing for more energy available if one

species dies out