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