

Lesson 1 – Vocabulary – Ecosystem Changes

1. succession - the process that gradually changes an existing ecosystem into another ecosystem

Summary of Lesson 1: Ecosystems can change slowly through the process of succession. Changes can happen slowly due to changes in climate or in communities of living things. Rapid changes can result from storms and other natural events such as fires, floods, and volcanic eruptions. Even when ecosystems are destroyed, most can recover over time.

Lesson 2 – Vocabulary - Humans and Ecosystems

1. reclamation - the repairing of some of the damage done to an ecosystem

Summary of Lesson 2: Ecosystems can be damaged when people use chemicals and clear land to meet human needs. People also can help repair or reclaim damaged ecosystems and help build new ones.

Lesson 3 – Vocabulary – Resource Conservation

1. conservation – the careful management and wise use of natural resources
2. preservation – the protection of an area
3. redesign – changing the design of packaging or products in order to use fewer resources

Summary of Lesson 3: People can conserve natural resources by reducing their use, and by recycling and reusing materials. Governments help conserve by setting up protected areas, laws, and agencies that preserve the environment. Humans can help repair ecosystems by: planting trees, putting back soil, and structures on which coral reefs can grow. We can conserve water by turning the tap off when while we are brushing our teeth or washing our hands; use short cycle on the dishwasher or clothes washer; and take shorter showers.