

## SUCCESSION

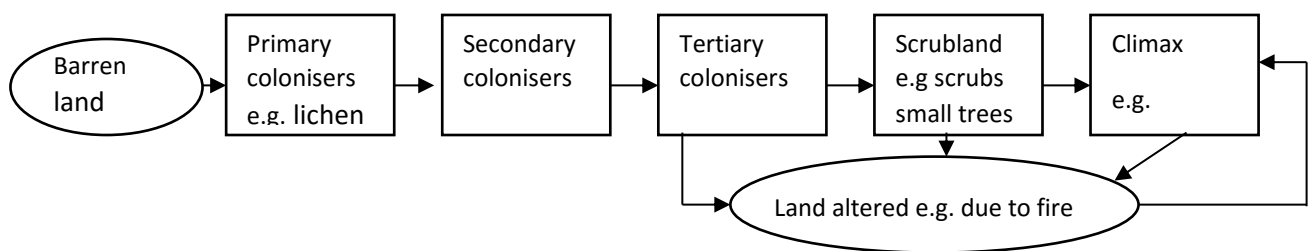
**Succession** = the changes that take place within an ecosystem

Pioneer species tend to have adaptations such as:

- a tolerance to extreme conditions
- The ability to fix nitrogen from the air
- Ability to photosynthesis light.
- Can easily disperse seeds across vast distances
- Rapid germination of seeds

### PROCESS:

1. Pioneer species colonise an inhospitable environment
2. They make the abiotic conditions less harsh (as they die and decompose and through this release nutrients)
3. More species follow. (e.g. bushes and these can then provide habitats for insects etc.)
4. A climax community forms – this consists of species which have established equilibrium. There are few if any new species replacing those which have already been established.
5. Biodiversity is increased (though may decrease when a dominant species in the climax outcompetes others)



**SECONDARY SUCCESSION** – is when ecosystems return to their climax communities when an area of land has suddenly be altered (it's quicker succession as spores and seeds remain)

- Succession is managed in order to conserve habitats as we can prevent a climax community forming (as this is not ideal because many species in the earlier stages are not present)