

**SUGGESTED SKILL**

 *Data Analysis*

**5.C**

Explain patterns and trends in data to draw conclusions.



**AVAILABLE RESOURCES**

- Classroom Resource > [AP Environmental Science Teacher's Guide](#)
- Classroom Resource > [Quantitative Skills in the AP Sciences \(2018\)](#)
- External Resource > [Environmental Literacy Council's AP Environmental Science Course Material](#)
- The Exam > [Student Performance Q&A 2014, Q3](#)
- The Exam > [Samples and Commentary 2014, Q3](#)

## TOPIC 2.7

# Ecological Succession

### Required Course Content

#### ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

**ERT-2**

Ecosystems have structure and diversity that change over time.

#### LEARNING OBJECTIVE

**ERT-2.I**

Describe ecological succession.

**ERT-2.J**

Describe the effect of ecological succession on ecosystems.

#### ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

**ERT-2.I.1**

There are two main types of ecological succession: primary and secondary succession.

**ERT-2.I.2**

A keystone species in an ecosystem is a species whose activities have a particularly significant role in determining community structure.

**ERT-2.I.3**

An indicator species is a plant or animal that, by its presence, abundance, scarcity, or chemical composition, demonstrates that some distinctive aspect of the character or quality of an ecosystem is present.

**ERT-2.J.1**

Pioneer members of an early successional species commonly move into unoccupied habitat and over time adapt to its particular conditions, which may result in the origin of new species.

**ERT-2.J.2**

Succession in a disturbed ecosystem will affect the total biomass, species richness, and net productivity over time.