

Ch. 2 Section 3 Notes

Ecosystems are always changing

Topic: Ecosystems (1)

Learning Target: Describe how groups of living things interact with each other

Key Words/Questions/Diagrams	Information
i.	<p><u>Population growth and decline (p. 64)</u></p> <p><u>Limiting factor</u>- any factor or condition that _____ the growth of a _____ an ecosystem</p> <p>An imbalance of any _____ or abiotic factor in an ecosystem can bring about changes in population _____</p> <p>Ex: water, _____ supply, _____, light, predators, nutrients in the soil, etc.</p> <p><i>St. Paul Island example:</i> the _____ factor for the reindeer population on St. Paul Island was the _____ source (lichen)</p> <p><u>Maintaining a Balance (p. 65)</u></p> <p><u>Carrying capacity</u>- when a population reaches a state where a population can no longer _____, the population has reached its _____ capacity</p> <p>Carrying capacity is also the _____ number of individuals an ecosystem can _____. An ecosystem's carrying capacity is different for each population</p> <p>Ex: If the population of _____ in Missouri reaches a point where it can no longer grow, it has reached its carrying capacity</p> <p><i>St. Paul Island example:</i> the reindeer population reached a _____ where it could no longer grow, so it reached its carrying capacity</p>

Summary/Reflections: Describe how carrying capacity and a limiting factor are related. Then, give an example of a limiting factor and carrying capacity.

Ecosystems change over time (p. 66)

Succession- The gradual change in an ecosystem in which one biological community is replaced by another

Primary Succession: the first species move into a _____ (empty) environment.

These first species are called _____
species.

Ex: small moss and lichen start to _____ in an area where a glacier has retreated that has little or no _____ l. These small organisms are the first things to grow in this empty environment. Over a long period of time, more and more organisms will be supported in this once barren place.

Secondary Succession: When the species move into an ecosystem after a _____ disturbance to the biological community in a stable ecosystem.

A community can be disturbed by a natural event, like fire or flood, or it can be disturbed by human activity.

Ex: A _____ cleared or farmland abandoned can lead to secondary succession

Summary/Reflections: Describe the difference between primary succession and secondary succession.