

Private Life of Plants: Plant Politics

Describe the various “perspectives” that different kinds of organism might hold of natural disasters. What aspects of the natural histories of these organisms back up these perspectives?

Describe the seral stages of the secondary succession that followed the 1987 hurricane in Britain.

The video describes the canopy of an oak tree as “a rich meadow.” What observations are presented to support this description?

The seasonal successions of deciduous forest vegetation are contrasted with the “constant” vegetation of an evergreen tropical forest. How do plants establish themselves in these two different environments?

The activities of fungi as decomposers are presented in the video. In drier woodlands, what challenges do fungi face?

In the Pacific Northwest, the canopy is very dense and little light reaches the forest floor. How do new seedlings establish themselves?

Describe the role of fire in maintaining mountain ash (eucalyptus) populations in southern Australia.

Describe four ways that fire affects the “grass tree” communities of western Australia.

Describe the events that occur during secondary successions of grasslands in east Africa. What might be the climax stage for this biome? What prevents this biome from reaching a climax stage or staying in a climax stage for long? Compare this grassland biome with biomes in North America that also rarely or only briefly reach climax.