



- Enter the following web address: www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4h/virtualforest
- Click on “Old-Field Succession”, then “start”

1. Define “old-field succession” –

2. Name the stages of old-field succession in order (hint: look at the slider at the bottom of the screen).
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

3. Name some reasons that land might be abandoned.

4. Abandoned bare land that is eroded may leave deep _____.

5. How long does it take an abandoned field to become covered with annual plants? _____

6. By the time an abandoned field is 3 years old, it will be dominated by _____ grasses, such as broomsedge.

7. Why are trees such as Eastern Red Cedar and Pine the first trees to grow in abandoned fields?

8. How long will the pines and cedars dominate the young woodland?

9. Why will grasses and briars start to die out during this stage?

10. What replaces pines as they die?

11. How many years does it take for the bare abandoned field to become a mature hardwood forest? _____
12. The mature hardwood forest won't change much unless its _____.

Go back to each stage and complete the chart below. Include as many plant and animal species for each stage as you can.

Stage	Plant species	Animal species
Bare land		
Annual plants		
Perennial plants		
Shrub		
Young woodland		
Mature woodland		

Analysis questions

Use your notes and the information you gained from this lab to answer the following questions.

1. The annual plants are called the _____ species.
2. The mature woodland is called the _____ community.
3. Old field succession is an example of _____ succession.
4. Why are certain plant species present in each stage? (hint: think about abiotic factors).

Explain a specific example from the lab.

5. Why are certain animal species present in each stage?

Explain a specific example from the lab.

