

Name(s) _____

Restoring the Land

If left untouched, much of the land in northeast Ohio would be forested. The “climax forest” represents the mature stage of natural forest specific to a certain region. In Ohio, the predominant vegetation is oak, maple and beech trees. Most of Ohio’s mature forest was cut in earlier centuries so that the land could be used for agriculture, industry and housing. Even in Cuyahoga Valley National Park, most of the forest is secondary growth, meaning that the trees have grown back on land that was once cleared.

Succession is a natural process by which one community of plants replaces another over time. If forested land has been cleared and then left alone, pioneer species are the first to grow back. In time, taller plants shade out the shorter ones. Number in order the stages of forest succession, starting from bare ground to the climax forest. The beginning vegetation should be #1.

Land has no vegetation.

- ____ Small shrubs are growing.
- ____ Grasses and other non-woody plants are growing.
- ____ Seeds dispersed by wind and animals begin to grow.
- ____ Main vegetation is oak, beech, maple and other trees.
- ____ Small, sun-loving trees are growing.

Climax forest for northeast Ohio is growing.

 **Krejci Dump**

Sometimes people pollute the land as they use it. In the early years of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, the National Park Service bought lots of land to create the new park. Some of these properties needed to be cleaned up before visitors could enjoy them. One such property was the Krejci Dump.

The Krejci family owned and operated a salvage yard and a dump on Hines Hill Road from 1948 until 1980. During this time, the dump accepted municipal and industrial wastes. In 1985 the national park gained control of the site and invited the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct an analysis of it. What they found was shocking. During peak operation, the Krejci Dump contained among the nation’s most toxic materials, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), arsenic and other carcinogenic wastes. In addition to being a serious concern to human health, these materials posed a serious threat to surrounding natural resources. In 1986, CVNP closed this site to the public to ensure safety.

The first steps in restoring the land involved removing barrels and other waste laying on the surface. After that was gone, the land was still polluted. By 2007, 234,213 tons of contaminated soil was removed. More soil removal needs to happen until tests show that the property is clean again. Once that work is complete, crews will carefully reshape the landscape and replant native vegetation, transforming the site into a wetland or a forest. Over time, natural processes such as succession can occur again.

By restoring damaged land and water, CVNP is living up to its mission to preserve and protect.

With a partner, list at least three ways you can be more green by protecting land from pollution.

Check the boxes that tell how you arrived at ways you can help protect the land.

Background Research	<input type="checkbox"/>	I used a variety of helpful resources.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	I found recent materials so my information is up to date.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	I used only reliable resources.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	I used resources that listed facts.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	I collected enough information to get a good understanding of my topic.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	I wrote down where I got each piece of information.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	I correctly cited all resources used in the final project.
Relating Concepts	<input type="checkbox"/>	I know how this project relates to what we are studying.
Partner Work	<input type="checkbox"/>	I worked well with my partner.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	I showed respect and support for my partner.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	I listened to my partner's ideas.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	I did my share of the work.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	I contributed both time and effort.