



**Unit 5
Succession**

**High School
Environmental Science**

Unit Length and Description:

4 Instructional Weeks

Students will continue to evaluate the claims, evidence and reasoning that complex interactions in ecosystems maintain relatively consistent numbers and types of organisms in stable conditions, but changing conditions may result in a new ecosystem. Then they will apply this knowledge to construct explanations for how the availability of natural resources, occurrence of natural hazards, and changes in climate have influenced human activity.

Science Standards:

- HS-ESS3-1** Construct an explanation based on evidence for how the availability of natural resources, occurrence of natural hazards, and changes in climate have influenced human activity.
- HS-LS2-6** Evaluate the claims, evidence and reasoning that the complex interactions in ecosystems maintain relatively consistent numbers and types of organisms in stable conditions, but changing conditions may result in a new ecosystem.

**Enduring Understandings-
Unit Anchor Phenomenon:**

For approximately 100 million years, sediment deposition to the Mississippi River gradually increased the size of the Mississippi River Delta. However, over the past few decades, the Mississippi River Delta has greatly decreased.

**Essential Questions-
Reflective Summaries:**

- Construct an explanation based on evidence for how the occurrence of natural hazards, changes in climate, and availability of resources drive human activity.
- Make a claim supported by evidence that the complex interactions in Mount Saint Helen ecosystem maintain relatively consistent numbers and types of organisms in stable conditions, but changing those conditions may result in a new ecosystem.