

Name _____

Succession in a Jar



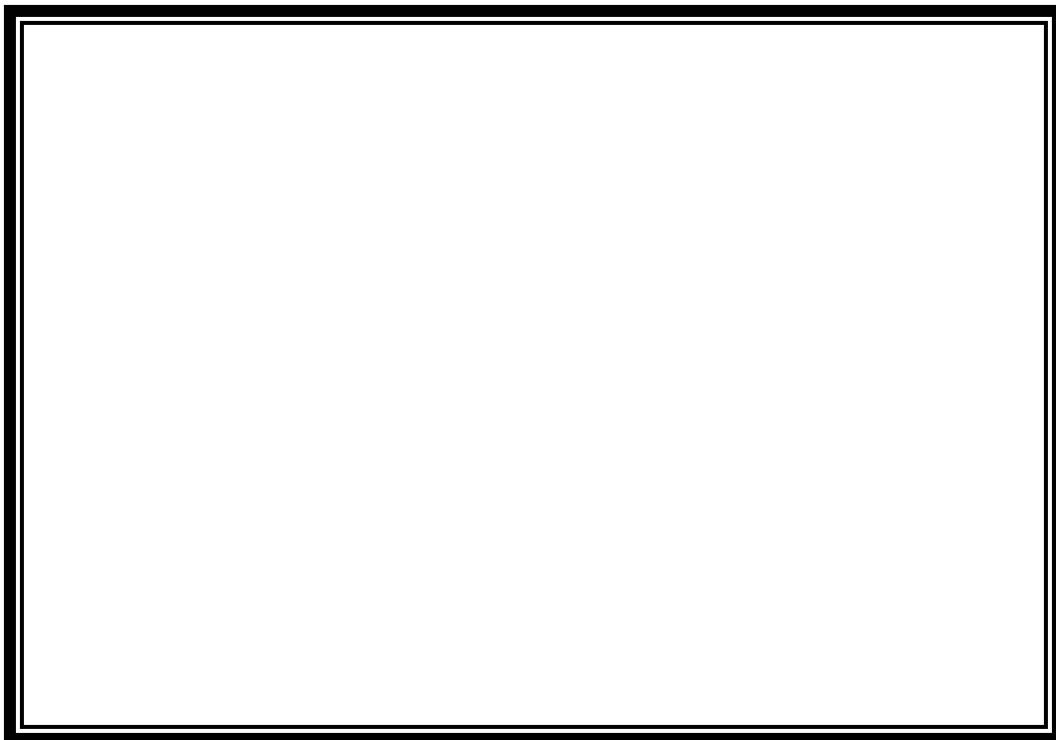
Problem: To observe changes in an ecosystem.

Materials:

Jar	Water	Soil
Water plant	Bird seed	

Procedure:

1. Read the procedure carefully so that you understand what you will be observing.
2. Make a chart to record: daily quantitative data and descriptive data. Use extra paper if needed.
3. Build the ecosystem in a jar:
 - ☉ Put 5 cm of soil in the jar
 - ☉ Put 8 cm of water in the jar
4. Put the jar by the window and let the soil & water settle overnight. Do not put the lid on the jar.
5. Predict what the jar will look like in 3 weeks. Draw a diagram to illustrate your prediction.



6. Plant the water plant in the jar.
7. Do not replace water as it evaporates
8. Every three days, put 3 - 4 bird seeds in the jar.
9. After the bird seed begins to grow, measure the height of the plants in cm every day.
10. Record the data.
11. After the water completely evaporates, the soil in the jar will begin to dry out. When this happens, water the plants enough to keep the soil moist.
12. Observe the jar ecosystem for 3 weeks.

Data:

Conclusions:

1. Describe the changes that occurred in the jar.

2. What would happen if the lid were left on during the investigation? Explain your answer.

3. What were the biotic and abiotic factors in the jar?

4. How did the biotic and abiotic factors affect each other? Give specific examples.

5. Define SUCCESSION:

6. Describe the 4 stages of pond succession:

7. Describe another example of succession:
