

Maritime Forest Ecology Vocabulary

Abiotic:	Not living (ex: water)
Biotic:	Living or was once living (ex: dead tree or animal)
Canopy:	Top zone of the maritime forest that includes mostly trees
Climax Community:	Final stage of succession, remaining relatively unchanged until destroyed by an event such as fire or human interference
Forest Floor:	Zone of the maritime forest that includes ground covering plants and decomposers
Maritime:	By the sea
Pioneer Species:	A hardy species that is the first to colonize a barren environment or ecosystem previously disturbed or damaged
Primary Succession:	Change of an ecosystem overtime following an initial colonization (ex: island formation)
Secondary Succession:	Change of an ecosystem over time following a disturbance from human or natural causes (ex. urban development, hurricane)
Slough:	Zone of the maritime forest that is a depression filled with freshwater. Often created by alligators
Transition Community:	Area where ecosystems overlap and integrate; often where succession can occur
Understory:	Zone of the maritime forest beneath the main canopy and includes other vegetation