

Name _____

Shaken, Not Stirred: Exploring the Impact of Disturbances on Ecosystems

Short Answer Key

1. Example: Disturbances disrupt ecosystems, allowing pioneer species to colonize the area and initiate ecological succession, leading to changes in species composition and habitat structure over time.
2. Example: Natural disturbances include wildfires, storms, floods, and volcanic eruptions. Human-induced disturbances include deforestation, pollution, urbanization, and overexploitation of natural resources.
3. Example: Disturbances create a patchwork of habitats with varying degrees of disturbance intensity, promoting habitat heterogeneity and supporting a diverse range of species with different ecological requirements.
4. Example: Some species have developed specialized seeds that remain dormant until conditions are favorable for germination, ensuring survival even after a disturbance.
5. Example: Disturbances are essential for maintaining healthy ecosystems by promoting biodiversity, habitat heterogeneity, and ecological resilience.

