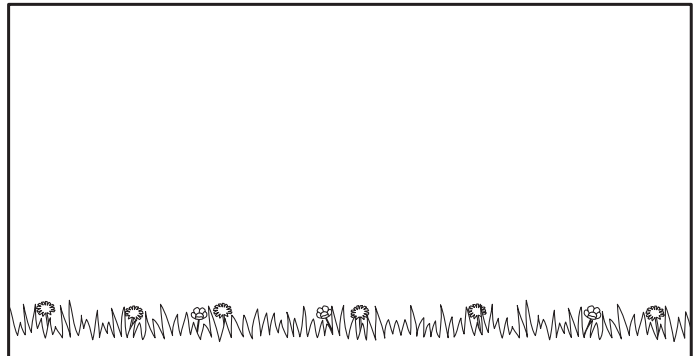


Return of the wilderness

A wilderness returns in stages over many years. For a time the land may look ‘untidy’ scrub, but it will eventually become forest.

Use the information beside each box to draw the stages of how a wilderness regrows.

If land is left clear the first things to return are plants we normally call weeds, such as grass, dandelions and buttercups.



Bigger plants called shrubs appear next. These are things like blackberry bushes.



After some years small trees begin to grow above the bushes. Silver Birch trees are one example.

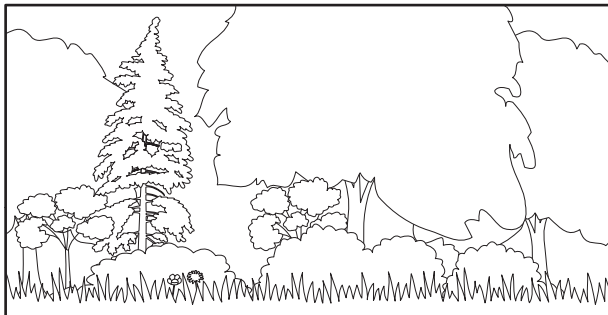
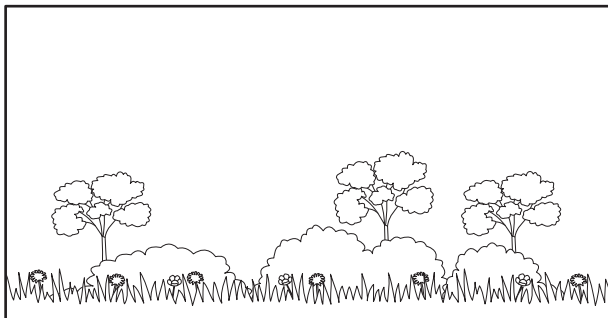
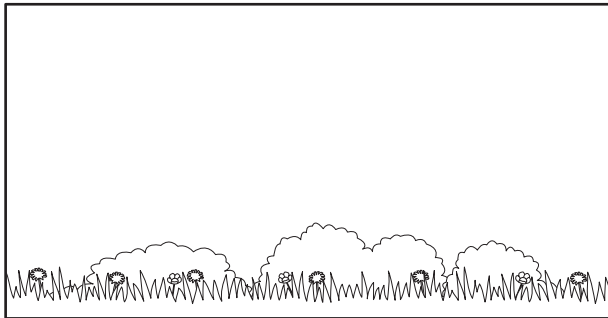
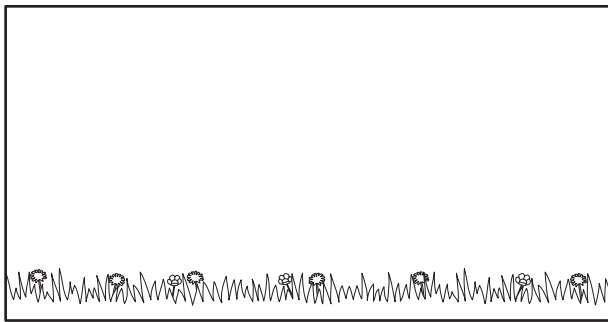


After half a century big trees have grown up. They block out much of the light and the weeds die back except in sunny glades.



Answers, Notes, Background

Based on pages 14 and 15 of *Caring for our Environment*



Notes

The exercise here is called plant succession. It does not matter how well the drawings are done, just that students change low-growing weeds for forest as they go between the top and bottom diagrams.

What they will see is that cleared land returns to a wild state by going through stages from untidy scrub through to forest.

If you have scrubland nearby you might show students (by a visit or through pictures you have taken) this stage in progress.