



The Morton Arboretum Pre-Trip Activity for “Animal Houses” Vocabulary List

To maximize the effectiveness of your “Animal Houses” program at The Morton Arboretum, please familiarize your students with the following vocabulary words. This will be most effective just before the program.

Consumer – an animal or plant that eats other living things to survive

Decomposer – an animal or plant that digests and breaks down dead material, converting it to a nutrient for other plants or animals

Habitat – an area that provides an animal or plant with adequate food, water, shelter and living space in a suitable arrangement

Interdependence – a condition where the plants and animals living together in an area depend upon one another for survival

Pollen – the fine yellowish powdery grains that contain the male germ cells of a plant

Pollinators – animals that help transfer the pollen from the male part of a plant to the female part of another plant

Producer – a plant that produces its own food, some of which will be passed through the food web when the plant is eaten or decomposes

Survival – the process of staying alive, using whatever means available