



The Morton Arboretum Pre-Trip Activity for “Terrific Trees” Vocabulary List

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

Bark – the tough outer covering of a woody root or stem

Branch – a woody stem that grows from the trunk or main stem of a tree

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

Cotyledon – the first leaf or one of the first pair of leaves developed by a seed plant

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

Embryo – a living thing in its earliest stage of development

Germination – the process where a seed sprout pushes through the soil to reach air and light

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

Leaf – the (usually) flat and green outgrowth of a plant stem

Life Cycle – the phases, stages, or changes through which a plant or animal passes in its lifetime

Needle – a long, thin, pointed leaf, usually found on evergreen trees

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

Root – the underground part of a plant that absorbs water and nutrients from the soil and holds the plant in place

Seed – the part of a plant that, under the right conditions, may grow into a new plant

Trunk – the main stem of a tree