



## The Morton Arboretum Pre-Trip Activity for “Eco-Comparisons” Vocabulary List

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

**Abiotic** – a non-living element in an environment (e.g., light, water, heat/sun, rock, air)

**Adaptation** – the slow process of change in the physical or behavioral traits of a plant or animal due to some environmental pressure

**Biotic** – an environmental factor related to or produced by living organisms

**Ecosystem** – a community of living (biotic) organisms and non-living (abiotic) environmental factors working together as a unit

**Hypothesis** – a tentative explanation for an observation that can be tested by further scientific study