



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 and concepts. 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 possible explanation for a particular observation

Macroinvertebrate – an invertebrate (animal without a backbone) that is large enough to be seen without a microscope

Water Quality Indicators:

- Dissolved oxygen
- Nitrates
- pH
- Phosphates
- Turbidity – measure of the amount of suspended material (cloudiness)