



The Morton Arboretum

Vocabulary List – No Child Left Inside: 6th-12th Grade

To maximize the effectiveness of your “No Child Left Inside” program at The Morton Arboretum, please familiarize your students with the following vocabulary words. This will be most effective just before the program.

1. **Habitat** – The natural environment of an animal or plant which provides all its needs such as food, water and air
2. **Food Web** – The network of interacting food chains within an ecological community
3. **Ecosystem** – A system made up of an ecological community of living things interacting with their environment
4. **Environment** – All the living and nonliving things that surround an organism where it lives
5. **Adaptation** – A change in an organism, over time, that better enables it to survive and multiply
6. **Decomposer** – An organism, such as a bacterium or fungus, that breaks down dead matter, returning it to the soil
7. **Interdependence** – A condition where the plants and animals living together in an area depend upon one another for survival
8. **Survival** – Continuing to live through dangerous or hard conditions
9. **Abiotic** – A part of an ecosystem that is not alive
10. **Biotic** – A part of an ecosystem that is alive
11. **Photosynthesis** – The process by which green plant cells use chlorophyll make food from sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide
12. **Biodiversity** – the diversity of life forms on earth or part of the earth, including diversity of species, genes, and ecosystems