



The Morton Arboretum

Vocabulary List – Plant Structural Adaptations: 4th-8th Grade

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

1. **Non-Vascular Plant** — Plants that lack the vessels to carry sap
2. **Fibrous Root** – A root that branches in many directions
3. **Seed Dispersal** – The movement of seeds away from the parent plant
4. **Tap Root** – A main root that grows straight downward and gives off smaller roots
5. **Vascular Plant** – A plant with an internal system of tubes for transporting water, minerals, and food to its roots, stems and leaves
6. **Abiotic** – The part of an ecosystem that is not alive
7. **Adaptation** – A structure or behavior that helps an organism survive in its environment.
8. **Biodiversity** – The total number of different species in one area or on Earth as a whole
9. **Biotic** – The part of an ecosystem that is alive
10. **Ecosystem** – All the living and nonliving things in an area and their interactions with one another
11. **Survival** – the process of staying alive, using whatever means available