



The Morton Arboretum “Habitat Happenings” Vocabulary List

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

Adaptation – the slow process of change in the physical or behavioral traits of a plant or animal due to some change in its environment

Camouflage – color, tones, patterns, shapes or behavior that enable an organism to blend in with its surroundings

Carnivore – an animal that eats other animals

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

Habitat – an area that provides an animal or plant with adequate food, water, shelter and living space in a suitable arrangement

Herbivore – an animal that eats only plants as food

Nocturnal – active during the night

Omnivore – an animal that eats both plants and other animals as food

Predator – an animal that hunts other animals for food

Prey – an animal (usually small) that might be hunted by a predator

Vertebrate – an animal with a backbone or spine