



The Morton Arboretum Pre-Trip Activity for “Trees In a Nutshell” Vocabulary List

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

Bark – the tough outer covering of a woody root or stem

Branch – the part of a tree or shrub that grows from the trunk

Leaf – the (usually) flat and green outgrowth of a plant stem

Life Cycle – the phases, changes, or stages through which a plant or animal passes during its lifetime

Needle – a long, thin, pointed leaf, usually found on evergreen trees

Root – the underground part of a plant that absorbs water and nutrients from the soil and holds the plant in place

Sapling – a young tree, normally more than 4-1/2 feet high and less than 4 inches in diameter

Seed – the part of a plant that, under the right conditions, may grow into a new plant

Seedling – a young tree grown from a seed (smaller than a sapling)

Soil – a natural, always changing substance consisting of ground up rock, organic matter, air, water, nutrients and microorganisms

Trunk – the main stem of a tree that supports the crown (tree top)

Twig – a small branch of a tree