



The Morton Arboretum “When It Starts to Snow” Vocabulary List

To maximize the effectiveness of your “When It Starts to Snow” 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

Amphibian – a cold-blooded vertebrate animal that lays its eggs in the water, which then hatch and become gill-breathing larvae and eventually grow into lung-breathing adults (for example a frog, toad, or salamander)

Carnivore – an animal that eats other animals for food

Herbivore – an animal that eats only plants for food

Hibernator – an animal that passes the winter season in a resting or sleeping state

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

Predator – an animal that hunts other animals for food

Prey – an animal that might be hunted and eaten by another animal

Reptile – a cold-blooded vertebrate animal with dry, scaly skin that lays eggs with thick membranes (for example a lizard, snake, turtle, or alligator)