



The Morton Arboretum Pre-Trip Activity for “Plant Structural Adaptations” Vocabulary List

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.

Abiotic – a non-living element in an environment (e.g., light, water, heat/sun, rock, air)

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

Biodiversity – the total of all varied and diverse plants and animals interacting in an ecosystem

Biotic – an environmental factor related to or produced by living organisms

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

Survival - the process of staying alive, using whatever means available

Additional Vocabulary for Lab:

Non-vascular Plant – a plant that does not have a system for carrying fluids (sap) through vessels within the plant

Fibrous Root – a type of root system with many long, thin roots clustered in a bunch

Seed Dispersal – a natural process where plant seeds are spread to other areas (for example by wind, water, animal transport or consumption)

Tap Root – a type of root system with a single primary fleshy, tough root

Thick Fibrous Root – a type of root system containing many long, fleshy, tough roots

Vascular Plant – a plant with specialized pipelines that carry water and nutrients throughout the plant