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