To maximize the effectiveness of your “Terrific Trees” 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** – a woody stem that grows from the trunk or main stem of a tree  
**Consumer** – an animal or plant that eats other living things to survive  
**Cotyledon** – the first leaf or one of the first pair of leaves developed by a seed plant  
** Decomposer** – an animal or plant that digests and breaks down dead material, converting it to a nutrient for other plants or animals  
**Embryo** – a living thing in its earliest stage of development  
**Germination** – the process where a seed sprout pushes through the soil to reach air and light  
**Interdependence** – a condition where the plants and animals living together in an area depend upon one another for survival  
**Leaf** – the (usually) flat and green outgrowth of a plant stem  
**Life Cycle** – the phases, stages, or changes through which a plant or animal passes in its lifetime  
**Needle** – a long, thin, pointed leaf, usually found on evergreen trees  
**Producer** – a plant that produces its own food, some of which will be passed through the food web when the plant is eaten or decomposes  
**Root** – the underground part of a plant that absorbs water and nutrients from the soil and holds the plant in place  
**Seed** – the part of a plant that, under the right conditions, may grow into a new plant  
**Trunk** – the main stem of a tree