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