



### **Word Definitions for Interrupted Fern Puzzle**

Crozier – The fiddlehead that looks like the curved staff of a shepherd’s hook.

Ferns - Flowerless plants that have featherlike fronds and reproduce by spores.

Fiddleheads – The curled ends of new fern fronds as they emerge from the ground. They look like the carved end of a violin.

Frond – Leaflike part of a fern.

Hair – The fine fibrous tubes growing from the skin of an animal or the hairlike filaments growing from the surface of a plant.

Interrupted – A break in the continuity of something—in an interrupted fern, the space where the spores grow along the frond.

Length – The measure of something from end to end.

More – The opposite of less.

Occur – To take place or happen or to where to be found.

Osmunda – The genus of plants that include the Interrupted fern.

Petiole -- A leaf stalk connecting the blade with the stem.

Pinna – The primary part of a pinnate leaf on a fern.

Pinnae – Plural of pinna.

Pinnate – Describes a compound leaf that has leaflets or pinnae on each side like a feather.

Rachis -- The midrib of a fern frond.

Rhizome – The horizontal underground stem of the fern that puts out shoots and roots.

Sori – Plural of sorus.

Sorus – A group of spore producing receptacles on the underside of a fern leaf.

Sporangia – Spore producing pinnae or receptacles. In an interrupted fern, they look like a cluster of grapes.

Spores – Tiny reproductive units on flowering plants.

Sterile – Unable to reproduce.

Stipe – The supporting stalk or petiole of a fern frond or the stalk that supports the cap of a mushroom.

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