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| **Three Tiers of Words*** **Tier One words** are the words of everyday speech usually learned in the early grades. They are not considered a challenge to the average native speaker, though English language learners of any age will require support from teachers.
* **Tier Two words** (what the Standards refer to as *general academic words)* are far more likely to appear in written texts than in speech. Tier Two words are found across many types of texts, they are highly generalizable.
* **Tier Three words** (what the Standards refer to as *domain-specific words)* are specific to a domain or field of study and key to understanding a new concept within a text. Because of their specificity and close ties to content knowledge, Tier Three words are far more common in informational texts than in literature. Recognized as new and “hard” words for most readers, they are often explicitly defined by the author of a text, repeatedly used, and otherwise heavily scaffolded.
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**Sorting Activity**

**Place the following words under the appropriate Tier by referring to the descriptions above.**

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| **Tier One Words** | **Tier Two Words** | **Tier Three Words** |
| friend arm pizza cloud school house | evidence accumulate solution evaluate determine synthesize sortvary itemize predict  | impressionism lavacarburetorlegislature circumferenceeclipse aorta hyperbole  |