

Sorting Vocabulary Words Into Tiers

Try your hand at sorting vocabulary words into three tiers. Read the following terms from a sixth-grade social studies unit about volcanoes, then sort them according to the three tiers. Write the terms in the boxes provided following the terms. Then compare your results with colleagues. Keep in mind that there is some subjectivity around placement of specific words into the three tiers, but if a term can be used only in one discipline and only in one specific way, it's definitely a tier three word.

soda bottle	tectonic plates	solid	magma	erupt
expand	geologist	pressure	lava	fall
prediction	smoke	mantle	avalanche	

Tier One: Common Words

Tier Two: Cross-Curricular Words

Tier Three: Technical and Academic Vocabulary

Source: Tyson & Peery, 2017, pp. 36–37.