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gen·darme  (zhăn därm', zhăn'därm)

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n.

1. A member of the French national police organization constituting a branch of the armed forces with responsibility for general law enforcement.
2. *Slang* A police officer.
3. A subsidiary pinnacle on a steep mountain ridge.

[French, from Old French *gent d'armes*, *gendarme*, sing. of *gens d'armes*, mounted soldiers, men-at-arms : *gens*, people, men (from Latin *gentēs*, pl. of *gēns*, clan; see **genə-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots) + *de*, of (from Latin *dē*; see [DE-](#)) + *armes*, pl. of *arme*, weapon; see [ARM](#)².]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

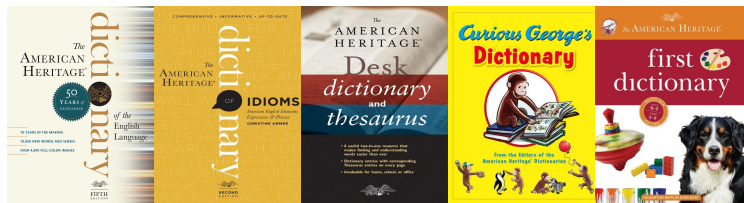
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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