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pri·mor·di·al  (prī-môr dē-əl)

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adj.
1. Being or happening first in sequence of time; original.
2. Primary or fundamental: *play a primordial role*.
3. *Biology* Belonging to or characteristic of the earliest stage of development of an organism or a part: *primordial cells*.
n.
A basic principle.

[Middle English, from Late Latin *prīmōrdiālis*, from Latin *prīmōrdium*, origin : *prīmus*, first; see **per**¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *ōrdīrī*, to begin to weave; see **ar-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

pri·mor di·al·ly *adv.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

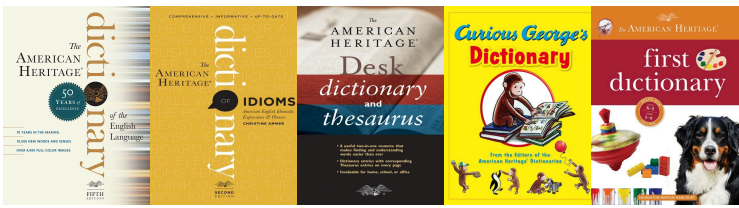
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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