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dictionary

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de·ba·cle  (dĭ-bä kəl, -băk əl, dəb ə-kəl)

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n.

1. A sudden, disastrous collapse, downfall, or defeat; a rout.
2. A total, often ludicrous failure.
3. The breaking up of ice in a river.
4. A violent flood.

[French *débâcle*, from *débâcler*, to unbar, from Old French *desbacler* : *des-*, *de-* + *bacler*, to bar (from Vulgar Latin **bacculāre*, from Latin *baculum*, rod; see **bak-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

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