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fa·ve·la  (fə-vĕl ə)

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n.

A shantytown or slum, especially in Brazil.

[Brazilian Portuguese, after the *Morro da Favela*, a ramshackle housing area constructed on a hill in Rio de Janeiro in 1897 by impoverished soldiers returning from the suppression of a separatist movement in northeast Brazil, after the *Morro da Favela*, literally, "hill of the *favela*," a hill in northeast Brazil fortified by the soldiers during the conflict, from *favela*, the Brazilian shrub *Cnidoscolus quercifolius* of the spurge family bearing seeds resembling fava beans, from diminutive of Portuguese *fava*, fava bean, from Latin *faba*; see **bha-bhā** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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