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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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fol·li·cle  (fŏl ˈ ɪ-kəl)

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n.

1. Anatomy

- a.** A small bodily cavity or sac.
- b.** A crypt or minute cul-de-sac or lacuna, such as the depression in the skin from which the hair emerges.
- c.** An ovarian follicle.
- d.** A spherical mass of cells usually containing a cavity.

2. Botany A dry, single-chambered fruit that splits along only one seam to release its seeds, as in larkspur and milkweed.

[Latin *folliculus*, little bag, diminutive of *follis*, bellows; see **bhel-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]



(click for a larger image)

follicle

milkweed follicle

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