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AMERICAN
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the
English
Language



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[guide to the dictionary](#)



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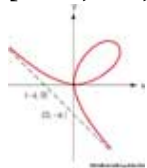
fo·li·um (fō le-əm)

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n.pl. **fo·li·a**(-le-ə)

1. *Geology* A thin, leaflike layer or stratum occurring especially in metamorphic rock.
2. *Mathematics* A plane cubic curve having a single loop, a node, and two ends asymptotic to the same line.

[Latin, leaf; see **bhel-**³ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]



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folium

The equation of the folium of Descartes is $x^3 + y^3 = 3axy$.

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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:

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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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