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bea·ver¹  (bē vər)

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n.

1.

a. Either of two large semiaquatic rodents, *Castor canadensis* of North America or *C. fiber* of Eurasia, having thick brown fur, webbed hind feet, a broad flat tail, and sharp incisors used for gnawing bark and felling trees, with which they construct dams and underwater lodges.

b. The fur of a beaver.

c. A top hat originally made of the underfur of a beaver.

2. A napped wool fabric, similar to felt, used for outer garments.

3.

a. Vulgar Slang The female genitals.

b. Offensive Slang A woman or girl.

adj.

1. Of or relating to a beaver or beavers: *beaver fur*; *a beaver hat*.

2. Constructed by beavers: *beaver dams*.

intr.v. **bea·vered**, **bea·ver·ing**, **bea·vers**

To work diligently and energetically.

[Middle English *bever*, from Old English *beofor*; see **bher**·² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]



(click for a larger image)

beaver1

North American beaver

Castor canadensis

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bea·ver² or **be·vor**  (bē vər)

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n.

1. A piece of armor attached to a helmet or breastplate to protect the throat or lower face.

2. The visor on a helmet.

[Middle English *bavier*, from Old French *baviere*, child's bib, beaver, from *bave*, saliva.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

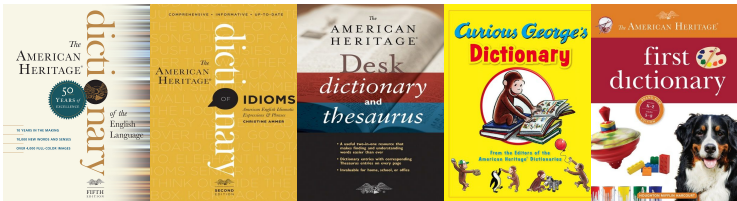
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

Indo-European Roots

Semitic Roots

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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