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dictionary

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pe·riph·y·ton  (pə-rīf ɪ-tŏn')

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n.

The collection of organisms, such as algae and bacteria, that live on the surface of submerged plants and other underwater objects.

[New Latin, from Greek *periphuton*, from neuter sing. of *periphutos*, planted all over, from *periphuein*, to grow around, cling to : *peri-*, *peri-* + *phuein*, to grow; see **bheuə-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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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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