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AMERICAN
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phy·lum  (fī ləm)

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n. pl. phy·la (-lə)

1. **Biology** A taxonomic category of organisms ranking below a kingdom and above a class. In the classification of plants, division often replaces phylum.
2. **Linguistics** A large division of possibly genetically related families of languages or linguistic stocks.

[New Latin *phylum*, from Greek *phūlon*, class; see **bheu-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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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:

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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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