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sax·i·frage  (săk sə-frīj, -frāj')

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n.

Any of numerous herbs of the genus *Saxifraga*, having small, variously colored flowers and leaves that often form a basal rosette.

[Middle English, from Old French, from Late Latin (*herba*) *saxifraga*, maidenhair fern, feminine of Latin *saxifragus*, rock-breaking (from its being found growing in rock crevices) : *saxum*, rock; see **sek-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *frangere*, *frag-*, to break; see **bhreg-** [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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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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