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HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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**bra·zil·wood**  (brə-zīl w d')

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*n.*

The reddish wood of certain tropical trees or shrubs in the pea family, especially the Brazilian tree *Caesalpinia echinata*, used for violin bows and as a source of a red or purplish dye.

[Obsolete *brazil*, brazilwood (from Middle English *brasile*, an Asian variety of brazilwood, ultimately, partly via Medieval Latin *brasiliū*, from Old Spanish *brasil*, from *brasa*, hot coals (in reference to its color), of Germanic origin; see **bhre-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)) + [WOOD](#)<sup>1</sup>.]

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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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\*This website is best viewed in Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge, or Safari. Some characters in pronunciations and etymologies cannot be displayed properly in Internet Explorer.