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AMERICAN  
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language


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To look up an entry in *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, use the search window above. For best results, after typing in the word, click on the “Search” button instead of using the “enter” key.

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**hec·a·tomb**  (hĕk ə-tŏm')

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- n.*
1. A large-scale sacrifice or slaughter.
  2. A sacrifice to the ancient Greek or Roman gods consisting originally of 100 oxen or cattle.

[Latin *hecatombē*, from Greek *hecatombē* : *hekatōn*, hundred; see **dek** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *-bē*, oxen; see **g<sup>w</sup>ou-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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## Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

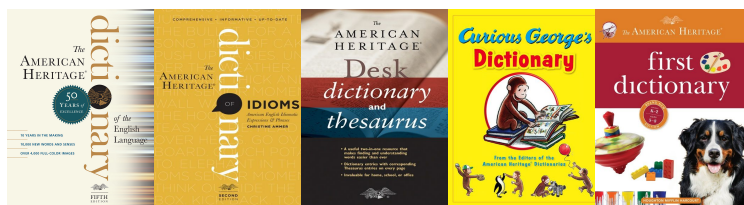
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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