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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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dome  (dōm)

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n.

1.

a. A roof or vault having a circular, polygonal, or elliptical base and a generally hemispherical or semispherical shape.

b. A geodesic dome.

2. A domelike structure or object.

3. *Geology* Any of various natural structures having a rounded shape, especially:

a. A system of strata that is uplifted in the center, forming a concentric anticline.

b. A mass of granite that has been weathered into a rounded shape by exfoliation.

c. A mound formed by the extrusion of viscous lava from a volcano.

4. *Chemistry* A form of crystal with two similarly inclined faces that meet at an edge parallel to the horizontal axis.

5. *Slang* The human head.

6. *Archaic* A large, stately building.

v. **domed**, **dom-ing**, **domes**

v.tr.

1. To cover with or as if with a dome.

2. To shape like a dome.

v.intr.

To rise or swell into the shape of a dome.

[From French *dôme*, dome, cathedral (from Italian *duomo*, cathedral, from Latin *domus*, house; see **dem-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)) and from French *dôme*, roof (from Provençal *doma*, from Greek *dōma*, house; see **dem-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

dom al (dō māl) *adj.*



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dome

(click for a larger image)

dome

top: c. 685-691 ad Dome of the Rock

Jerusalem

bottom: lava dome within Panum Crater, near Mono Lake

Lee Vining, California

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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](#)

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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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