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dictionary

of the
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Language



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pet·ri·fy  (pĕt rə-fī')

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tr.v. **pet·ri·fied**, **pet·ri·fy·ing**, **pet·ri·fies**

1. To convert (wood or other organic matter) into a stony replica by petrification.
2. To cause to lose vitality or become impervious to change; deaden: *a routine that petrified her thinking.*
3. To stun or paralyze with terror; daze.

[Middle English *petrifien*, to harden, from Old French *petrifier* : Latin *petra*, rock (from Greek *petrā*; see **per**-² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)) + Old French *-fier*, *-fy*.]

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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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