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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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mes·o·the·li·um  (měz'ə-thē lē-əm, mēs'-)

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n. pl. mes·o·the·li·a (-lē-ə)

The layer of flat cells of mesodermal origin that lines the embryonic body cavity and gives rise to the squamous cells of the peritoneum, pericardium, and pleura.

[[MESO-](#) + ([EPI](#))[THELIUM](#).]

mes·o·the li·al *adj.*

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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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