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au·toch·thon  (ô-tŏk thən)

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n. pl. **au·toch·thons** or **au·toch·tho·nes** (-thə-nēz')

1. One that originated or was formed where it is found, especially a rock formation that has not been displaced.
2. One of the earliest known inhabitants of a place; an aborigine.
3. *Ecology* An indigenous plant or animal.

[Greek *autokhthōn* : *auto-*, auto- + *khthōn*, earth; see **dhghem-** [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:

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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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