



The  
AMERICAN  
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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**for·est**  (fôr ăst, fôr -)

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*n.*

1. A growth of trees and other plants covering a large area.
2. A large number of objects bearing a similarity to such a growth, especially a dense collection of tall objects: *a forest of skyscrapers*.
3. A defined area of land formerly set aside in England as a royal hunting ground.

*tr.v.* **for·est·ed, for·est·ing, for·ests**

To plant trees on or cover with trees.

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[Middle English, from Old French, from Medieval Latin *forestis* (*silva*), outside (forest), from Latin *forīs*, outside; see [dhwer- in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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**for est·al, fo·res tial** (fə-rēs chəl) *adj.*

**for'es·ta tion** *n.*

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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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