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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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Hip·po·crene  (hĭp ə-krēn', hĭp'ə-krē nē)

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n.

Greek Mythology

A fountain on Mount Helicon, Greece, sacred to the Muses and regarded as a source of poetic inspiration.

[Latin *Hippocrēnē*, from Greek *Hippokrēnē* : *hippos*, horse (from the myth that Pegasus's hoof created it); see **ekwo-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots + *krēnē*, fountain, spring; possibly akin to Old Norse *hrqnn*, wave (for the semantic relationship of the Greek and Old Norse, compare Old English *wiell*, well, spring, Old Norse *vella*, bubbling mass, and Old High German *wella*, wave).]

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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:

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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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