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aard·vark  (ärd värk')

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n.

A burrowing mammal (*Orycteropus afer*) of sub-Saharan Africa, having a stocky body, large ears, a long tubular snout, and powerful digging claws for feeding on ants and termites.

[Obsolete Afrikaans : *aarde*, earth (from Middle Dutch *aerde*; see **er**-² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)) + *vark*, pig (from Middle Dutch *varken*; see **porko**- [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

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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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[Semitic Roots](#)

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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