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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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glacier  (glā shər)

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n.

A huge mass of ice slowly flowing over a landmass, formed from compacted snow in an area where snow accumulation has exceeded melting and sublimation.

[French, from Old French, cold place, from *glace*, ice, from Vulgar Latin **glacia*, from Latin *glaciēs*; see **gel-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

glaciered *adj.*



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glacier

Jacobsen Glacier in the Monarch Icefield of the British Columbia Coastal Range, Canada

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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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