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oa·kum  (ō kəm)

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n.

Loose hemp or jute fiber, sometimes treated with tar, creosote, or asphalt, used chiefly for caulking seams in wooden ships and packing pipe joints.

[Middle English *okom*, from Old English *ācumba*; see **gembh-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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