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germ  (jûrm)

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n.

1. *Biology* A small mass of protoplasm or cells from which a new organism or one of its parts may develop.
2. The earliest form of an organism; a seed, bud, or spore.
3. A microorganism, especially a pathogen.
4. Something that may serve as the basis of further growth or development: *the germ of a project*.

[Middle English, bud, from Old French *germe*, from Latin *germen*; see **gena-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

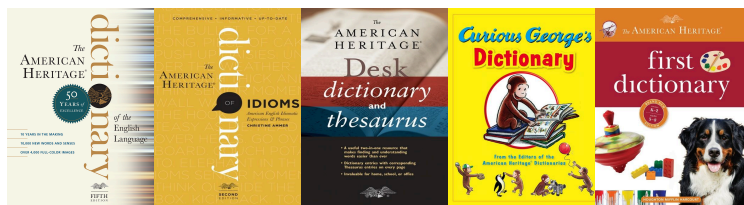
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