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AMERICAN  
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language


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**ger·mi·nal**  (jûr mǝ-nəl)

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*adj.*  
1. Of, relating to, or having the nature of a germ cell.  
2. Of, relating to, or occurring in the earliest stage of development: *was active in the germinal stages of the space program.*

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[French, from Latin *germen*, *germin*-, sprout, bud; see **genə-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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**ger mi·nal·ly** *adv.*

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## Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

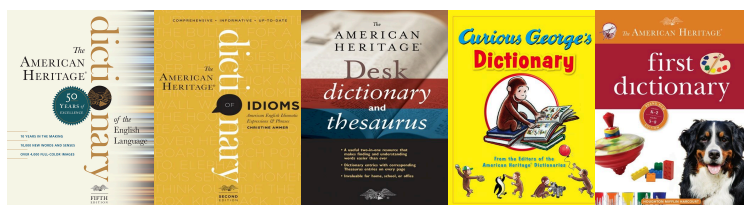
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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