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gens  (jěnz)

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n. pl. gen·tes (jěnz tēz')

1. A patrilineal clan of ancient Rome composed of several families of the same name claiming a common ancestor and belonging to a common religious cult.
2. *Anthropology* An exogamous patrilineal clan.

[Latin *gēns*; see **gena-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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