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pri·mo·gen·i·tor  (prī'mō-jěn ĭ-tər)

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n.

1. The earliest ancestor.
2. An ancestor or forebear.

[Late Latin *prīmōgenitor* : Latin *prīmō*, at first (from *prīmus*, first; see **per**¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)) + Latin *genitor*, begetter (from *genitus*, past participle of *gignere*, to beget; see **gena-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

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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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