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Language



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na·tion  (nā shən)

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n.

1.

a. A relatively large group of people organized under a single, usually independent government; a country.

b. The territory occupied by such a group of people: *All across the nation, people are voting their representatives out.*

2. The government of a sovereign state.

3. A people who share common customs, origins, history, and frequently language; a nationality: *"Historically the Ukrainians are an ancient nation which has persisted and survived through terrible calamity" (Robert Conquest).*

4.

a. A federation or tribe, especially one composed of Native Americans.

b. The territory occupied by such a federation or tribe.

[Middle English *nacioun*, from Old French *nation*, from Latin *nātiō*, *nātiōn*-, from *nātus*, past participle of *nāscī*, to be born; see **gena-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

na tion·hood' *n.*

na tion·less *adj.*

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Na·tion  (nā shən), **Carry Amelia Moore** 1846-1911.

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American temperance crusader who conducted a series of raids on saloons, in which she used a hatchet to break liquor bottles and destroy furniture.

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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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