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ped·i·gree  (pěd ĭ-grē')

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n.

1.

a. A line of ancestors; a lineage.

b. A list of ancestors; a family tree.

2. A chart of an individual's ancestors used in human genetics to analyze Mendelian inheritance of certain traits, especially of familial diseases.

3. A list of the ancestors of a purebred animal.

4. A continuous history or series of precedents, especially considered as evidence of respectability or legitimacy: *"The practice of larding legislation with special interest lucre has, of course, a lengthy pedigree in American politics"* (Jonathan Chait).

[Middle English *pedegru*, from Anglo-Norman *pe de grue* : *pe*, foot (from Latin *pēs*; see [PEDI-](#)) + *de*, of (from Latin *dē*; see [DE-](#)) + *grue*, crane (from the resemblance of a crane's foot to the lines of succession on a genealogical chart) (from Vulgar Latin **grūā*, from Latin *grūs*, *gru-*; see [gera-](#)² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

ped i·greed' *adj.*

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