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mil·li·pede also **mil·le·pede**  (mĭl ə-pēd')

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n.

Any of various arthropods of the class Diplopoda, having a cylindrical segmented body with two pairs of legs attached to each segment except for the first four thoracic segments, and feeding chiefly on decaying organic matter. Also called *diplopod*.

[Latin *mīlipeda*, a kind of insect : *mīlle*, thousand; see **gheslo-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *pēs*, *ped-*, foot; see **ped-** [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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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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