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tar·di·grade  (tär dĭ-grād')

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n.

Any of various slow-moving, microscopic invertebrates of the phylum Tardigrada that have four body segments, eight legs, and a chitinous cuticle, inhabit aquatic or moist terrestrial environments, and can withstand extreme temperatures. Also called *water bear*.

adj.

1. Of or belonging to the Tardigrada.
2. Slow in action; slow-moving.

[New Latin *Tardigrada*, phylum name, from neuter pl. of Latin *tardigradus*, slow-moving : *tardus*, slow + *-gradus*, walking, moving (from *gradī*, to go; see [TRANSGRESS](#)). *Adj.*, sense 2, from Latin *tardigradus*.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

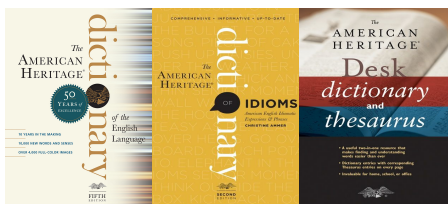
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