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rhi·zo·bi·um  (rī-zō bē-əm)

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n. pl. rhi·zo·bi·a (-bē-ə)

Any of various aerobic bacteria of the genus *Rhizobium* that form root nodules in leguminous plants, such as clover and beans, where they establish a symbiotic relationship in which the bacteria obtain carbon and energy from the plant while supplying the plant with nitrogen by nitrogen fixation.

[New Latin *Rhizobium*, genus name : [RHIZO-](#) + Greek *bios*, life; see [g^wei-](#) [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

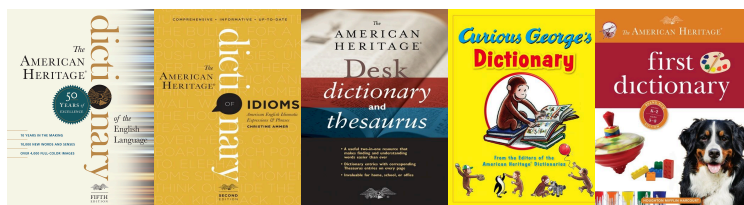
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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