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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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em·blem  (ēm bləm)

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n.

1. A distinctive badge, design, or device: *trucks marked with the company emblem; the emblem of the air force.*
2. An object or representation that functions as a symbol: *"a bed of sweet-scented lilies, the emblem of France" (Amy Steedman).*
3. An allegorical picture usually inscribed with a verse or motto presenting a moral lesson.

[Middle English, pictorial fable, from Latin *emblēma*, raised ornament, from Greek, embossed design, from *emballēin*, to insert, set in : *en-*, in; see [EN-](#)² + *ballein*, to throw; see [g^wela-](#) in the [Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]



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emblem

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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:

[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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