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in·fest  (ĭn-fĕst)

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tr.v. **in·fest·ed, in·fest·ing, in·fests**

1. To inhabit or overrun in numbers or quantities large enough to be harmful, threatening, or obnoxious: *rats infesting the sewers; streets that were infested with drugs.*
2. To live as a parasite in or on: *livestock that were infested with tapeworms.*

[Middle English *infesten*, to distress, from Old French *infester*, from Latin *īnfestāre*, from *īnfestus*, hostile; see **g^whedh-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

in'fes·ta tion *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

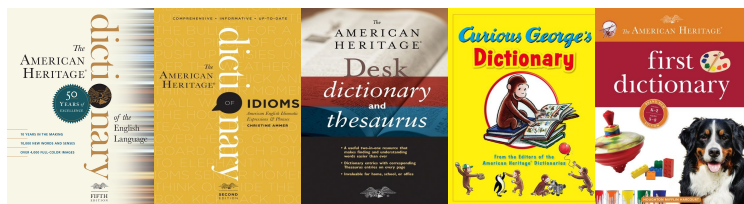
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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