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caul·dron also **cal·dron**  (kôl drən)

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n.

1. A large vessel, such as a kettle or vat, used for boiling.
2. A state or situation of great distress or unrest felt to resemble a boiling kettle or vat: *a cauldron of conflicting corporate politics.*

[Middle English *caudron*, *caldroun*, from Anglo-Norman *cauderon*, *caldroun*, diminutive of *caudere*, *caldere*, cooking pot, from Late Latin *caldāria*, pot for boiling, from feminine of Latin *caldārius*, suitable for warming, from *calidus*, warm; see **kela-**¹ in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

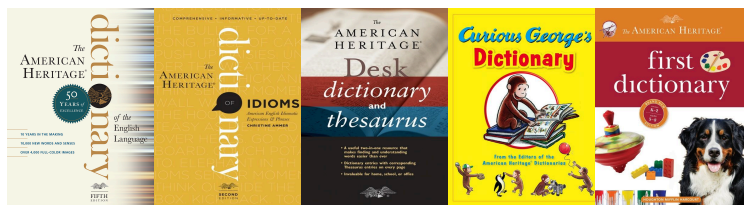
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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