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coe·lom also **ce·lom**  (sē ləm)

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n. pl. **coeloms** or **coe·lo·ma·ta** (-lə-mä tə, -măt ə) also **ce·loms** or **ce·loma·ta**

The fluid-filled cavity within the body of most multicellular animals, except some invertebrates such as flatworms and cnidarians, that lies between the body wall and the digestive tract and is formed by the splitting of the embryonic mesoderm into two layers. Also called *body cavity*.

[German *Koelom*, from Greek *koilōma*, cavity, from *koilos*, hollow; see **keuə-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

coe·lom **ic** (sī-lōm ɪk, -lō mɪk) *adj.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

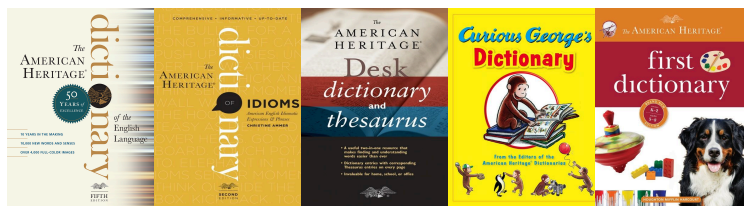
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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