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cli·tel·lum  (klī-těĭ əm)

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n. pl. cli·tel·la (-těl ə)

A glandular swelling of the epidermis of certain annelid worms, such as earthworms, that secretes a viscous fluid to form a cocoon in which the eggs are deposited.

[New Latin *clitellum*, sing. of Latin *clitellae*, packsaddle; see **klei-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]



(click for a larger image)

clitellum
of an earthworm

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

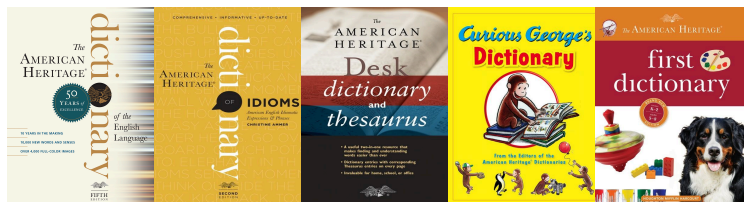
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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