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col·o·ny  (kŏl ə-nē)

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n. pl. **col·o·nies**

1.
 - a. A group of emigrants or their descendants who settle in a distant territory but remain subject to or closely associated with the parent country.
 - b. A territory thus settled.
2. A region politically controlled by a distant country; a dependency.
3.
 - a. A group of people with the same interests or ethnic origin concentrated in a particular area: *the American colony in Paris*.
 - b. The area occupied by such a group.
4. **Colonies** The British colonies that became the original 13 states of the United States.
5. A group of people who have been institutionalized in a relatively remote area: *an island penal colony*.
6. A group of the same kind of animals, plants, or one-celled organisms living or growing together.
7. A visible growth of microorganisms, usually in a solid or semisolid nutrient medium.

[Middle English *colonie*, from Latin *colōnia*, from *colōnus*, settler, from *colere*, to cultivate; see **k^wel-¹** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

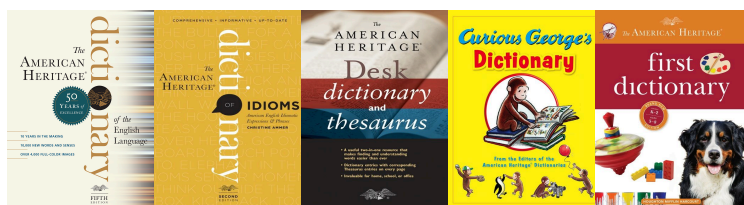
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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