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dictionary

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Language



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tel·e·ol·o·gy  (tĕl'ē-ŏl ə-jē, tē'lē-)

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n. pl. tel·e·ol·o·gies

1. The philosophical interpretation of natural phenomena as exhibiting purpose or design.
2. The use of ultimate purpose or design as a means of explaining phenomena.
3. Belief in or the perception of purposeful development toward an end, as in history.

[Greek *teleios*, *teleos*, perfect, complete (from *telos*, end, result; see **k^wel-¹** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)) + **-LOGY**.]

tel'e·o·log i·cal (-ə-lŏj ĭ-kəl), **tel'e·o·log ic** (-ĭk) *adj.*

tel'e·o·log i·cal·ly *adv.*

tel'e·ol o·gist *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

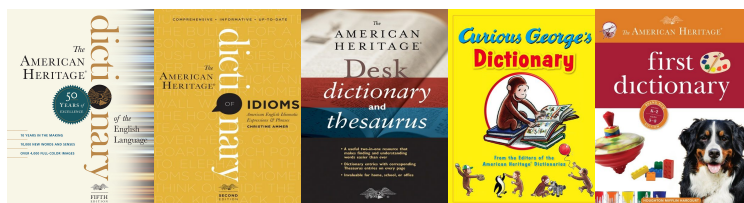
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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