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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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cy·cloid (si kloid')

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adj.

1. Resembling a circle.

2. *Zoology*

a. Relating to or being a kind of fish scale that is thin, rounded, and smooth-edged and often shows concentric growth rings.

b. Having cycloid scales.

3. *Psychology* Afflicted with or relating to cyclothymia.

n.

Mathematics

The curve traced by a point on the circumference of a circle that rolls on a straight line.

[French *cycloïde*, from Greek *kukloeides*, circular : *kuklos*, circle; see **k^wel-**¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + -*oeides*, -oid.]

cy·cloi dal (-kloid'l) *adj.*



(click for a larger image)

cycloid

top: surface view of cycloid scales of a bony fish

bottom: The parametric equations of this cycloid are

$$x = r(\theta - \sin \theta),$$

$$y = r(1 - \cos \theta).$$



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cycloid

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[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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