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AMERICAN  
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language


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**terato-** or **terat-**

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*pref.*

1. Congenital malformation: *teratogenic*.
2. Malignancy: *teratoma*.

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[Greek, from *teras*, *terat-*, portent, monster; see **k<sup>w</sup>er-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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## Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

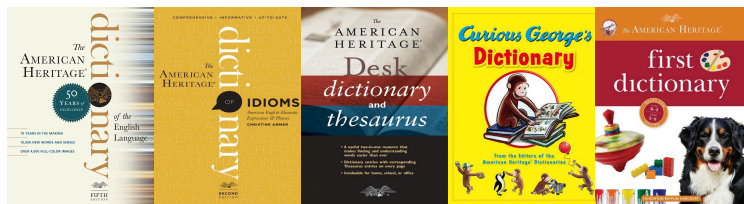
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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