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tes·ser·a  (tĕs ə-rə)

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n. pl. tes·ser·ae (tĕs ə-rē')

One of the small squares of stone or glass used in making mosaic patterns.

[Latin, from Greek, neuter of *tesseres*, variant of *tessares*, four; see **k^wetwer-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]



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tessera

c. 450 bc mosaic mask made with turquoise, coral, and stone tesserae
Teotihuacán, Mexico

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

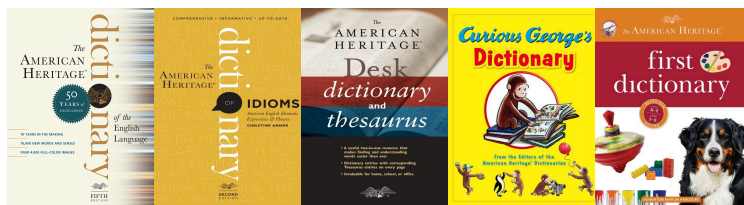
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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