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cy·no·sure  (sī nə-sh r', sīn ə-)

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n.

1. An object that serves as a focal point of attention and admiration.
2. Something that serves to guide.

[French, Ursa Minor (which contains the guiding star Polaris), from Latin *cynosūra*, from Greek *kunosoura*, dog's tail, Ursa Minor : *kunos*, genitive of *kuōn*, dog; see **kwon-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *ourā*, tail; see **ors-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

cy'no·sur *al* *adj.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

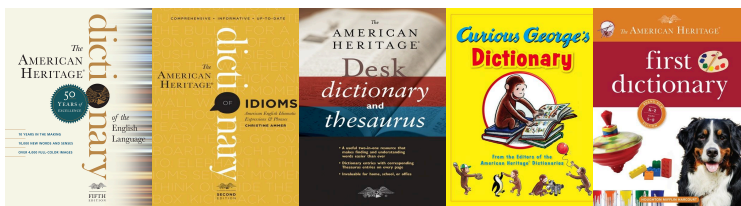
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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