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medication

tor, from *medēri*, to heal. See **med-** in Appendix.] — **med/i-ca/-tive** *adj.*

**med-i-ca-tion** (méd/i-ká/shən) *n.* **1.** A medicine; a medication. **2.** The act or process of treating with medicine. **3.** Administration of medicine.

**Med-i-ci** (méd/'ə-chē', mē/'dē-). Italian noble family that produced three popes (Leo X, Clement VII, and Leo XI) and two queens of France (Catherine de Médicis and Marie de Médicis). **Cosimo** "the Elder" (1389–1464) was the first of the family to rule Florence. **Lorenzo** "the Magnificent" (1449–1492) was an outstanding patron of learning and the arts, whose clients included Michelangelo. — **Med/i-ce'an** (-chē'an, -sē'-) *adj.*

**me-dic-i-nal** (mī-dīs/'ə-nəl) *adj.* **1.** Of, relating to, or having the properties of medicine. **2.** Having an unappealing, bitter flavor. — **me-dic/i-nal-ly** *adv.*

**med-i-cine** (méd/'i-sin) *n.* **Abbr. med. 1.a.** The science of diagnosing, treating, or preventing disease and other damage to the body or mind. **b.** The branch of this science encompassing treatment by drugs, diet, exercise, and other nonsurgical means. **2.** The practice of medicine. **3.** An agent, such as a drug, used to treat disease or injury. **4.** Something, such as corrective discipline or punishment, that is unpleasant but necessary or unavoidable. **5.a.** Shamanistic practices or beliefs, especially among Native Americans. **b.** Something, such as a ritual practice or sacred object, believed to control natural or supernatural powers or serve as a preventive or remedy. — *attributive.* Often used to modify another noun: *a medicine cabinet; medicine bottles.* [Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *medicina*, from feminine of *medicus*, of a doctor, from *medicus*, physician. See **MEDICAL**.]

**medicine ball** *n.* **Sports.** A large, heavy stuffed ball used in conditioning exercises.

**Med-i-cine Bow Mountains** (méd/'i-sin bō'). A range of the eastern Rocky Mountains in southeast Wyoming and northern Colorado. It rises to 3,664 m (12,013 ft) at **Medicine Bow Peak** in south-central Wyoming.

**medicine bundle** *n.* A covered or wrapped parcel containing items of personal or tribal religious significance, used by certain Native American peoples.

**medicine dance** *n.* A ritual dance performed by some Native American peoples to obtain supernatural assistance, as in healing or crop control.

**Medicine Hat** (hăt). A city of southeast Alberta, Canada, near the Saskatchewan border southeast of Calgary. Founded in 1883, it is a trade center. Population, 40,380.

**medicine lodge** *n.* A building or structure used by some Native American peoples for ceremonies.

**medicine man** *n.* **1.** A shaman, especially a Native American shaman. **2.** A hawk of brews and potions among the audience in a medicine show.

**medicine show** *n.* A traveling show, popular especially in the 19th century, that offered varied entertainment, between the acts of which medicines were peddled.

**med-ick** (méd/'ik) *n.* Variant of **medic**<sup>1</sup>.

**med-i-co** (méd/'i-kō') *n., pl. -cos.* *Informal.* **1.** A physician. **2.** A medical student. [Italian *medico* or Spanish *médico*, both from Latin *medicus*. See **MEDICAL**.]

**med-i-co-le-gal** (méd/'i-kō-lē'gəl) *adj.* Of, relating to, or concerned with medicine and law. [Latin *medicus*, physician; see **MEDICAL** + **LEGAL**.]

**me-di-e-val** also **me-di-ae-val** (mē/'dē-ē'vəl, mēd/'ē-) *adj.* **Abbr. med., M. 1.** Relating to or belonging to the Middle Ages. **2. Informal.** Old-fashioned; unenlightened: *parents with a medieval attitude toward dating.* [From New Latin *medium aevum*, the middle age : Latin, neuter of *medius*, middle; see **medhyo-** in Appendix + Latin *aevum*, age; see **aiw-** in Appendix.] — **me-di-e-val-ly** *adv.*

**Me-di-e-val Greek** (mē/'dē-ē'vəl, mēd/'ē-) *n.* **Abbr. Med. Gr.** The Greek language as used from about 800 to about 1500.

**me-di-e-val-ism** also **me-di-ae-val-ism** (mē/'dē-ē'və-liz'm, mēd/'ē-) *n.* **1.** The spirit or the body of beliefs, customs, or practices of the Middle Ages. **2.** Devotion to or acceptance of the ideas of the Middle Ages. **3.** Study of the Middle Ages.

**me-di-e-val-ist** also **me-di-ae-val-ist** (mē/'dē-ē'və-lizt, mēd/'ē-) *n.* **1.** A specialist in the study of the Middle Ages. **2.** A connoisseur of medieval culture.

**Medieval Latin** *n.* **Abbr. Med. Lat.** The Latin language as used from about 700 to about 1500.

**Me-dill** (mə-dil'). **Joseph.** 1823–1899. American newspaperman who was a founder of the Republican Party (1854).

**me-di-na** (mī-dē'nə) *n.* The old section of an Arab city in North Africa. [Arabic *madīna*, city.]

**Me-di-na** (mī-dē'nə). A city of western Saudi Arabia north of Mecca. Mohammed lived here after fleeing from Mecca in 622. The Mosque of the Prophet, containing Mohammed's tomb, is a holy site for Moslem pilgrims. Population, 290,000.

**Me-di-na-Si-do-nia** (mə-dē'nə-sī-dōn'yə, mé-thē'nā-sē-thō'n'yə), Seventh Duke of. Title of Alonso Pérez de Guzmán. 1550–1619. Spanish naval officer who led the Spanish Armada to utter defeat by English forces (1588).

**me-di-o-cre** (mē/'dē-ō'kar) *adj.* Moderate to inferior in quality; ordinary. See Synonyms at **average**. [French *médiocre*, from

**me-di-oc-ri-ty** (mē/'dē-ōk'rī-tē) *n., pl. -ties. 1.* The state or quality of being mediocre. **2.** Mediocre ability, achievement, or performance. **3.** One that displays mediocre qualities. — **me-di-oc/ri-tize'** (-tiz') *v.* — **me-di-oc/ri-ti-za-tion** *n.*

**Medit.** *abbr.* Mediterranean.

**med-i-tate** (méd/'i-tāt') *v. -tat-ed, -tat-ing, -tates. —tr. 1.* To reflect on; contemplate. **2. To plan in the mind; intend: *meditated a visit to her daughter.* — *intr. 1.* To consider or reflect at length. **2. To engage in contemplation, especially of a spiritual or devotional nature. See Synonyms at **ponder**. [Latin *meditārī*, *meditāt-*. See **med-** in Appendix.] — **med/i-ta'tor** *n.*****

**med-i-ta-tion** (méd/'i-tā'shən) *n.* **1.a.** The act or process of meditating. **b.** A devotional exercise of or leading to contemplation. **2.** A contemplative discourse, usually on a religious or philosophical subject. — **med/i-ta'tion-al** *adj.*

**med-i-ta-tive** (méd/'i-tā'tiv) *adj.* Characterized by or prone to meditation. See Synonyms at **pensive**. — **med/i-ta'tive-ly** *adv.* — **med/i-ta'tive-ness** *n.*

**med-i-ter-ra-ne-an** (méd/'i-tə-rā'nē-ən, -rān'yən) *adj.* Surrounded nearly or completely by dry land. Used of large bodies of water, such as lakes or seas. [Latin *mediterrāneus*, inland : *medius*, middle; see **medhyo-** in Appendix + *terra*, land; see **ters-** in Appendix.]

**WORD HISTORY:** When one hears the word *Mediterranean*, one thinks of a specific place and perhaps of the great cultures that have surrounded it. But the word can also apply to any large body of water that is surrounded completely or almost completely by dry land. This usage goes back to the use in Late Latin of the Latin word *mediterrāneus*, the source of our word, as part of the name *Mediterrāneum mare* for the mostly landlocked Mediterranean Sea. But Latin *mediterrāneus*, which is derived from *medius*, "the middle of, the heart of," and *terra*, "land," in Classical Latin actually meant "remote from the coast, inland." In Late Latin, in referring to the sea, *mediterrāneus* probably meant originally "in the middle of the earth" rather than "surrounded by land," for to the Mediterranean cultures without knowledge of much of the earth, the Mediterranean Sea was in the center of the world. Our word *mediterranean* is first recorded in English in 1594 as the name of the sea.

**Med-i-ter-ra-ne-an** (méd/'i-tə-rā'nē-ən). **Abbr. Medit.** The region surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. Some of the most ancient civilizations flourished in the region, which was dominated for millenniums by Phoenicia, Carthage, Greece, Sicily, and Rome. — **Med/i-ter-ra-ne-an** *adj. & n.*

**Mediterranean fever** *n.* See **brucellosis** (sense 1).

**Mediterranean flour moth** *n.* A small, pale gray moth (*Anagasta kuehniella*) now found worldwide, the larvae of which destroy flour and other stored grain products.

**Mediterranean fruit fly** *n.* A black and white two-winged fly (*Ceratitis capitata*) found in many warm regions of the world, the larvae of which destroy citrus and other fruit crops.

**Mediterranean Sea.** An inland sea surrounded by Europe, Asia, Asia Minor, the Near East, and Africa. It connects with the Atlantic Ocean through the Strait of Gibraltar; with the Black Sea through the Dardanelles, the Sea of Marmara, and the Bosphorus; and with the Red Sea through the Suez Canal.

**me-di-um** (mē/'dē-əm) *n., pl. -di-a* (-dē-ə) or **-di-ums.** **Abbr. med., m., M. 1.** Something, such as an intermediate course of action, that occupies a position or represents a condition midway between extremes. **2.** An intervening substance through which something else is transmitted or carried on. **3.** An agency by which something is accomplished, conveyed, or transferred: *The train was the usual medium of transportation in those days.* **4. pl. media.** **Usage Problem. a.** A means of mass communication, such as newspapers, magazines, radio, or television. **b. media** (*used with a sing. or pl. verb*). The group of journalists and others who constitute the communications industry and profession. **5. pl. mediums.** A person thought to have the power to communicate with the spirits of the dead or with agents of another world or dimension. Also called *psychic*. **6. pl. media. a.** A surrounding environment in which something functions and thrives. **b.** The substance in which a specific organism lives and thrives. **c.** A culture medium. **7.a.** A specific kind of artistic technique or means of expression as determined by the materials used or the creative methods involved: *the medium of lithography.* **b.** The materials used in a specific artistic technique: *oils as a medium.* **8.** A solvent with which paint is thinned to the proper consistency. **9. Chemistry.** A filtering substance, such as filter paper. **10.** A size of paper, usually 18 × 23 inches or 17½ × 22 inches. — **medium** *adj. Abbr. med., m., M.* Occurring or being between two degrees, amounts, or quantities; intermediate: *broil a medium steak.* See Synonyms at **average**. [Latin, from neuter of *medius*, middle. See **medhyo-** in Appendix.]

**USAGE NOTE:** The etymologically plural form *media* is often used as a singular to refer to a particular means of communication, as in *This is the most exciting new media since television.* This usage is widely regarded as incorrect; *medium* is preferred. A stronger case can be made in defense of the use of *media* as a collective term, as in *The media has not shown much interest in covering the issue.* As with the analogous words *data* and *agenda*,



Lorenzo de Medici  
c. 1485 terra-cotta bust by  
Andrea del Verrocchio

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| ō toe    | ō about, item |
| ō paw    | ♦ regionalism |

Stress marks: / (primary); / (secondary); ˈ (tertiary)