

# Webster's New World Dictionary<sup>®</sup>

Third College Edition

THIRD COLLEGE EDITION

# Webster's New World Dictionary®

OF AMERICAN ENGLISH

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*Dedicated  
to David B. Guralnik  
lexicographical mentor  
and friend*

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**Aral Sea / arcanum**

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Armenia & Azerbaijan, into the Kura River and the Caspian Sea: c. 600 mi. (965 m)

**Aral Sea** (ar'a) inland body of salt water in SW Asia, east of the Caspian Sea; slowly decreasing in area, partly from overuse for irrigation: c. 15,500 sq. mi. (40,145 sq. km); formerly also called **Lake Aral**

**Aram** (er'am) [Heb] ancient country in SW Asia, generally identified as Syria

**Aram** abbrev. **Aramaic**  
**-arama** (ə rā'mə, -rām'ə) combining form **-ORAMA** [*snacharama*]  
Also **-aram/a**

**Ara-mae-lan** or **Ara-me-lan** (ar'a mē'an, er'-) *n.* 1 a member of a people that lived in ancient Syria (Aram) and Mesopotamia 2 **ARAMAIC** —*adj.* of the Aramaeans or their language

**Ara-majic** (-mā'ik) *n.* a Northwest Semitic language that was the lingua franca throughout the Near East from c. 300 B.C. to c. A.D. 650; it replaced Hebrew as the language of the Jews, and one of its dialects was spoken by Jesus and his disciples

**ara-mid** (ar'a mīd') *n.* [*ar(omatic) (poly)amid(e)*] any of a group of very strong, lightweight, synthetic fibers used in making radial tires, bulletproof vests, etc.

**ara-neid** (ə rā'nē id') *n.* [*< ModL < L aranea (akin to Gr arachnē, spider) + -id*] *Zool.* a spider —**ara-nei-dan** (ar'ənē'i dān) *adj.*

**Arapa-ho** (ə rap'ə hō) *n.* [*< Crow arapxəhau, lit., (one with) many tattoos*] 1 *pl.* ho a member of a North American Indian people formerly living in the arctic belt of the North Platte and Arkansas rivers and now living in Wyoming and Oklahoma 2 the Algonquian language of this people

**ara-pai-ma** (ar'ə pl'mə) *n.* [*ModL < Port < a Tupi word*] a very long, edible, large-scaled bony fish (*Arapaima gigas*) of the rivers of the Amazon region, sometimes reaching a weight of c. 180 kg (c. 400 lb.)

**Ara-rat** (ar'ə rat, er'-) mountain in E Turkey, near the Armenian and Iranian borders; supposed landing place of Noah's Ark (Gen. 8:4); higher of its two peaks, c. 17,000 ft. (5,182 m)

**ara-roba** (ar'ə rō'bə, ār'-) *n.* [*Port < Tupi name*] 1 a bitter, yellow powder obtained from cavities in the trunk of a Brazilian tree (*Andira araroba*) of the pea family and used to make the drug chrysarobin; Goa powder 2 this tree

**Aras** (ā rās) *Turk. name of ARAKS*

**Araucanian** (ar'ə kā'nē, ə rō'-) *n.* [*< Sp Araucano, after Arauco, region (now a province) in Chile < Araucanian rau, clay + ho, water*] 1 a member of a group of South American Indian peoples of Chile and the Argentine pampas 2 the language of these peoples —*adj.* of these peoples or their language or culture

**arau-cari-a** (ar'ə ker'ə, er'-) *n.* [*ModL < Sp Arauco; see prec.*] any of a genus (*Araucaria*) of the araucaria family of cone-bearing trees with flat, scalelike needles, native to the Southern Hemisphere and grown as ornamentals in other areas; esp., the monkey puzzle tree and the Norfolk Island pine —*adj.* designating a family (Araucariaceae) of unusual conifers found esp. in Chile, Australia, and S U.S. Also **arau-car'i-an** *adj., n.*

**Ara-wak** (ar'ā wāk, ar'ə wāk') *n.* 1 a member of a South American Indian people living chiefly in NE South America and formerly in the West Indies 2 the language of this people

**Ara-wa-kan** (ar'ā wā'kān) *n.* a family of South American Indian languages, including Arawak —*adj.* designating or of this family of languages

**Ara-x-es** (ə rak'ēs) *ancient name of ARAKS*

**arb** (ārb) *n.* [*Colloq.*] short for **ARBITRAGEUR**

**ar-balest** (ār'bə lest') [*ME arbalaste < OFr arbaleste < LL arcubalista < L arcus, a bow (see ARC) + balista, BALLISTA*] a medieval crossbow consisting of a steel bow set crosswise in a wooden shaft with a mechanism to bend the bow; it propelled arrows, balls, or stones Also **ar'ba-list** (-list) —**ar'ba-les'ter** (-les'tar) *n.*

**Ar-be-la** (ār be'lə) ancient city in Assyria, often erroneously identified as the site of a battle (331 B.C.) in which Alexander the Great defeated Darius III of Persia; modern name **IRBIL**

**ar-bit-er** (ār'bit er) *n.* [*L, orig., one who goes to a place, a witness; judge < ad-, to + betere, to come, go*] 1 a person selected to judge a dispute; umpire; arbitrator 2 a person fully authorized or qualified to judge or decide —*SYN.* **JUDGE**

**ar-bit-rable** (ār'be trə bal) *adj.* that can be arbitrated; subject to arbitration

**ar-bit-trage** (ār'be trāzh) *n.* [*LME < Fr < arbitrer; to judge < L arbitrari; see ARBITRATE; for 2, < Fr arbitrage*] 1 a simultaneous purchase and sale in two separate financial markets in order to profit from a price difference existing between them 2 a buying of a large number of shares in a corporation in anticipation of, and with the expectation of making a profit from, a merger or takeover; in full risk arbitrage —*vi.* -traged, -trag'ing to engage in arbitrage

**ar-bit-rag-eur** (ār'be trāzh'er) *n.* [*Fr*] a person who engages in arbitrage Also sp. **ar'bit-rag'er**

**ar-bit-ral** (ār'be tral) *adj.* [*Fr < L arbitralis; see ARBITER*] of arbiters or arbitration

**ar-bit-ram-ent** (ār bi'tre mant) *n.* [*ME & OFr arbitrement < L arbitrari; see ARBITRATE*] 1 arbitration 2 an arbitrator's verdict or award 3 the power to judge or right to decide

**ar-bit-rar-y** (ār'be trer'ē) *adj.* [*LL arbitrarius < arbitri, ARBITER*] 1 not fixed by rules, but left to one's judgment or choice; discretionary [*arbitrary decision, arbitrary judgment*] 2 based on one's preference, notion, whim, etc.; capricious [*young children and their arbitrary rules for games*] 3 absolute; despotic —*SYN.* **DICTATORIAL** —**ar'bit-rar'i-ly** *adv.* —**ar'bit-rar'i-ness** *n.*

**ar-bit-rate** (ār'be trāt) *vt.* -trated, -trating [*< L arbitratus, pp. of arbitrari, to give a decision < arbitri, ARBITER*] 1 to give to an arbitrator to decide; settle by arbitration 2 to decide (a dispute) as an arbitrator —*vi.* 1 to act as an arbitrator (in a dispute, between persons) 2 to submit a dispute to arbitration —**ar'bit-rat-ive** *adj.*

**ar-bit-ra-tion** (ār'be trā'shən) *n.* the act of arbitrating; specif., the settlement of a dispute by a person or persons chosen to hear both sides and come to a decision —**ar'bit-rat'ional** *adj.*

**ar-bit-ra-tor** (ār'be trāt'ar) *n.* 1 a person selected to judge a dispute; arbitrator, esp. one, as in collective bargaining negotiations, named with the consent of both sides 2 a person authorized to judge or decide

**ar-bit-ress** (ār'be tris) *n.* a woman arbitrator; see **-ESS**

**arbor**<sup>1</sup> (ār'bar) *n.* [*ME erber < OFr erber, herber < LL herbarium, HERBARIUM*] 1 a place shaded by trees or shrubs or, esp., by vines on a latticework; bower 2 [*Obs.*] a) a garden or lawn b) an orchard

**arbor**<sup>2</sup> (ār'bar) *n., pl. ar'bo-res* (-bē rēz) [*L, a tree; beam; see ARDUOUS*] *Bot.* a tree, in contrast to a shrub

**arbor**<sup>3</sup> (ār'bar) *n.* [*Fr arbre, tree, axis < L arbor; see prec.*] *Mech.* 1 a shaft; beam 2 a spindle; axle 3 a round bar that holds a cutting tool or an article being turned on a lathe

**Arbor Day** a tree-planting day observed individually by the States of the U.S., usually in spring

**ar-bo-real** (ār bōr'ē əl) *adj.* [*L arboreus, of a tree < arbor, tree + -al*] 1 of or like a tree 2 living in trees or adapted for living in trees

**ar-bored** (ār'bōrd) *adj.* 1 having an arbor, or bower 2 having trees on both sides or all around

**ar-bo-reous** (ār bōr'ē əs) *adj.* 1 **ARBOREAL** 2 full of trees 3 **ARBORESCENT**

**ar-bo-res-cent** (ār'be res'ənt) *adj.* [*LL arborescens, prp. of arborescere, to become a tree < arbor, tree; see ARBOR*] treelike in shape or growth; branching —**ar'bo-res'cence** *n.*

**ar-bo-re-tum** (-rē'əm) *n., pl. -rē'tums or -rē'ta (-rē'tə) [*L < arbor, tree*] 1 a place where many kinds of trees and shrubs are grown for exhibition or study*

**ar-bo-ri-cul-ture** (ār'be rō'kul'chər, ār bōr'-) *n.* [*< L arbor, tree + (AGRI)CULTURE*] the scientific cultivation of trees and shrubs —**ar'bo-ri-cul'tur-ist** *n.*

**ar-bo-rist** (ār'bor ist) *n.* a specialist in the planting and maintenance of trees

**ar-bo-riza-tion** (ār'bor i zā'shən) *n.* [*ARBOR? + -IZATION*] 1 a treelike formation or arrangement 2 the forming of such an arrangement

**ar-bo-r-vi-tae** (ār'bor vit'ē) *n.* [*L, lit., tree of life*] 1 *Bot.* any of several trees or shrubs (genus *Thuja*) of the cypress family, with flattened sprays of scalelike leaves 2 *Anat.* the treelike structure of the white substance in a longitudinal section of the cerebellum

Also, esp. for sense 2, **arbor vitae**

**ar-bo-vi-rus** (ār'bə vī'rəs) *n.* [*AR(THROPOD) + BO(VIRUS) + VIRUS*] any of a group of RNA viruses, including those that cause yellow fever and viral encephalitis, which are transmitted to people by certain blood-sucking arthropods, esp. mosquitoes and ticks

**Ar-but-not** (ār'but'nət, ār'bət'nət), John 1667-1735; Scot. writer & physician

**ar-but-tus** (ār'but'əs) *n.* [*L, wild strawberry tree*] 1 any of a genus (*Arbutus*) of trees or shrubs of the heath family, with dark-green leaves, clusters of white or pinkish flowers, and small strawberrylike fruit; esp., the madroño and the strawberry tree 2 a trailing plant (*Epigaea repens*) of the heath family, with clusters of white or pink flowers

**arc** (ārk) *n.* [*ME arke < OFr arc < L arcus, a bow, arch < IE base \*arq-, bowed, curved > ARROW*] 1 orig., the part of a circle that is the apparent path of a heavenly body above and below the horizon 2 a bowlike curved line or object 3 *Elec.* the band of sparks or incandescent light formed when an electric discharge is conducted from one electrode or conducting surface to another, characterized by relatively high current and low potential difference between electrodes: in full, **electric arc** 4 *Geom.* a) any part of a curve, esp. of an inverse trigonometric function [*arc sine x is an angle whose sine is x*] —*vi.* arced or arched, arc'ing or arck'ing 1 to move in a curved course 2 *Elec.* to form an arc

**ARC** (ārk) *n.* **AIDS-RELATED COMPLEX**

**Arc, Jeanne d'** see **D'ARC, Jeanne**

**ARC** abbrev. **American Red Cross**

**ar-cade** (ār kād') *n.* [*Fr < Prov arcada < ML arcada < L arcus, arch; see ARC*] 1 a passage having an arched roof 2 ANY COVERED PASSAGEWAY, esp. one with shops along the sides 3 a) **PENNY ARCADE** b) a place somewhat like a penny arcade, containing coin-operated video games 4 *Archit.* a) a line of arches and their supporting columns b) an arched building —*vt.* -cad'ed, -cad'ing to make into or provide with an arcade

**Ar-ca-dia** (ār kā'dē ə) 1 ancient, relatively isolated pastoral region in the central Peloponnese 2 region of modern Greece occupying the same general area 3 [*after the ancient region, in allusion to its rural simplicity*] city in SW Calif.: suburb of Los Angeles: pop. 48,000 —*n.* any place of rural peace and simplicity

**Ar-ca-dian** (-ən) *adj.* 1 of Arcadia 2 rustic, peaceful, and simple; pastoral —*n.* 1 a native or inhabitant of Arcadia 2 a person of simple habits and tastes

**Arcady** (ār'ke də) *old poet. name for ARCADIA (the ancient region)*

**ar-cane** (ār kān) *adj.* [*< L arcanus; see fol.*] 1 hidden or secret 2 understood by only a few esoteric

**ar-ca-num** (-kā nəm) *n., pl. -na* (-nə) or **-nuns** [*L, neut. of arcanus,*

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