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dictionary



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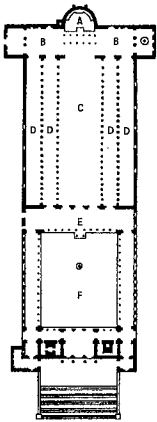
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naval architect  
near miss



nave<sup>1</sup>  
Plan of  
fourth-century A.D.  
Saint Peter's, Rome  
A. Apse  
B. Transept  
C. Nave  
D. Aisle  
E. Narthex  
F. Atrium

**naval architect** *n.* One who designs ships.  
**naval stores** *pl. n.* *Naut.* Products, such as turpentine or pitch, originally used to caulk the seams of wooden ships.  
**Na-varre** (nə-vār', nā-). A historical region and former kingdom of SW Europe in the Pyrenees of N Spain and SW France. The S part was annexed to Spain (1512-15), and the N part became part of the French crown lands (1589).  
**nave**<sup>1</sup> (nāv) *n.* The central part of a church, extending from the narthex to the chancel and flanked by aisles. [*Med.Lat. nāvis* < *Lat.*, ship (prob. < its shape). See *nāu*.\*.]  
**nave**<sup>2</sup> (nāv) *n.* The hub of a wheel. [*ME* < *OE nafu*. See *nobh*.\*.]  
**na-vel** (nāv'vəl) *n.* 1. The mark on the surface of the abdomen of mammals where the umbilical cord was attached during gestation. 2. A central point; a middle. [*ME* < *OE nafela*. See *nobh*.\*.]  
**navel orange** *n.* A sweet, usu. seedless orange having at its apex a navel-like formation enclosing an underdeveloped fruit.  
**na-vel-wort** (nāv'vəl-wūrt', -wōrt') *n.* 1. See *pennywort* a. 2. Any of various Eurasian plants of the genus *Omphalodes*, having one-sided cymes of usu. blue flowers.  
**na-vic-u-lar** (nāv'vī'ya-lər) *n.* *Anat.* 1. A comma-shaped bone of the human wrist, located in the first row of carpals. 2. A concave bone of the human foot, located between the talus and the metatarsals. — *adj.* Shaped like a boat; scaphoid. [*Lat. nāvīcula*, boat, dim. of *nāvis*, ship. See *nāu*.\*.]  
**nav-i-ga-ble** (nāv'ī-gā-bəl) *adj.* Sufficiently deep and wide to provide passage for vessels: *navigable waters*. — *nav'ī-ga-bil'i-ty*, *nav'ī-ga-ble-ness* *n.* — *nav'ī-ga-bly* *adv.*  
**nav-i-gate** (nāv'ī-gāt') *v.* -gat-ed, -gat-ing, -gates. — *tr.* 1. To plan, record, and control the course and position of (a ship or an aircraft). 2. To follow a planned course on, across, or through: *navigate a stream*. — *intr.* 1. To control the course of a ship or an aircraft. 2. To voyage over water in a boat or ship; sail. 3.a. To make one's way. b. *Informal.* To walk. [*Lat. nāvīgāre, nāvīgāt-*: *nāvis*, ship; see *nāu*.\* + *agere*, to drive, lead; see *ag*.\*.]  
**nav-i-ga-tion** (nāv'ī-gā'shən) *n.* 1. The theory and practice of navigating, esp. the charting of a course for a ship or an aircraft. 2. Travel or traffic by vessels, esp. commercial shipping. — *nav'ī-ga-tion'al* *adj.*  
**nav-i-ga-tor** (nāv'ī-gā'tər) *n.* 1. One who navigates. 2. A device that directs the course of an aircraft or a missile.  
**Nav-ra-ti-lo-va** (nāv'rā-tī-lō'və, nāv'vrə-). *Martina*. b. 1956. Czechoslovakian-born Amer. tennis player who won nine Wimbledon singles championships between 1978 and 1990.  
**nav-vy** (nāv'vī) *n., pl. -vies*. *Chiefly British.* A laborer, esp. one employed in construction or excavation projects. [Short for *NAVIGATOR*, canal laborer (obsolete).]  
**na-vy** (nāv'vī) *n., pl. -vies*. 1. All of a nation's warships. 2. *Open Navy.* A nation's entire military organization for sea warfare and defense, including vessels, personnel, and shore establishments. 3. A group of ships; a fleet. 4. *Color.* Navy blue. [*ME* < *OFr. navie* < *Lat. nāvīgia*, pl. of *nāvīgium*, ship < *nāvīgāre*, to sail. See *NAVIGATE*.]  
**navy bean** *n.* Any of several varieties of the kidney bean, cultivated for their edible white seeds. [*<* its former use as a standard provision of the U.S. Navy.]  
**navy blue** *n.* *Color.* A dark grayish blue. [*<* the color of the British naval uniform.]  
**Navy Cross** *n.* A U.S. Navy decoration awarded for exceptional heroism.  
**navy gray** *n.* *Color.* A dark gray.  
**navy yard** *n.* A dockyard for the construction, repair, equipping, or docking of naval vessels.  
**na-wab** (nə-wōb') *n.* See *nabob* 1.  
**Nax-os** or **Nák-os** (nāk'ŏs, -sōs, -sās, nāk'ŏs). An island of the Cyclades in SE Greece in the Aegean Sea; famous in ancient times as a center of Dionysian worship.  
**nay** (nā) *adv.* 1. No. 2. And moreover: *He was ill-favored, nay, hideous*. — *n.* 1. A denial or refusal. 2. A negative vote or voter. [*ME* < *ON nei*: *ne*, not; see *ne*\* + *ei*, ever; see *aiw*.\*.]  
**nay-say** (nāv'sā') *tr. v.* -sald (-sēd'), -say-ing, -says (-sēz'). To say no to; deny or oppose.  
**nay-say-er** (nāv'sā'ər) *n.* 1. One who is assertively negative in attitude. 2. One who critically disagrees.  
**Naz-a-rene** (nāz'ə-rēn', nāz'ə-rēn') *n.* 1.a. A native or inhabitant of Nazareth. b. Jesus. 2. A member of a sect of early Christians of Jewish origin who retained many of the prescribed Jewish observances. 3. A member of an American Protestant denomination, the Church of the Nazarene, that follows many of the doctrines of early Methodism. — *adj.* Of or relating to Nazareth or its inhabitants. [*ME* < *LLat. Nazarenus* < *Gk. Nazarēnos* < *Nazaret*, Nazareth.]  
**Naz-a-reth** (nāz'ə-rēth). A town of N Israel SE of Haifa; the boyhood home of Jesus. Pop. 46,300.  
**Na-zi** (nāt'sē, nāt'-) *n., pl. -zis*. 1. A member of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, brought to power in Germany in 1933 under Adolf Hitler. 2. Often *nazi*. An adherent or advocate of Nazi policies; a fascist. — *adj.* Of, relating to, controlled by, or typical of the National Socialist German Workers' Party. [*Ger.* short for *Nationalsozialistische deut-*

*sche Arbeiter-Partei*, National Socialist German Workers' Party.] — *Na'zi-fi-ca'tion* (-sā-fī-kā'shən) *n.* — *Na'zi-fy'* (-sā-fī') *v.*  
**Na-zism** (nāt'sīz'əm, nāt'-) also **Na-zi-ism** (-sē-īz'əm) *n.* The ideology and practice of the Nazis, esp. the policy of racist nationalism, expansionism, and state control of the economy.  
**Nb** The symbol for the element niobium.  
**NB** also **N.B.** *abbr.* New Brunswick.  
**Nb.** *abbr.* Bible. Numbers.  
**n.b.** or **N.B.** *abbr.* Nota bene.  
**NBA** also **N.B.A.** *abbr.* 1. National Basketball Association. 2. National Boxing Association.  
**NbE** *abbr.* North by east.  
**NbW** *abbr.* North by west.  
**NC** *abbr.* 1. No charge. 2. No credit. 3. Or **N.C.** North Carolina.  
**NC-17** (ēn'sē-sēv'an-tēn') *n.* A movie rating that admits no one under the age of 17. [*N(O) c(h)ildren under 17 (admitted)*.]  
**NCAA** or **N.C.A.A.** *abbr.* National Collegiate Athletic Association.  
**NCC** *abbr.* National Council of Churches.  
**NCO** or **N.C.O.** *abbr.* Noncommissioned officer.  
**NCTE** *abbr.* National Council of Teachers of English.  
**NCTM** *abbr.* National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.  
**Nd** *abbr.* The symbol for the element neodymium.  
**ND** or **N.D.** *abbr.* North Dakota.  
*n.d.* or *N.D.* *abbr.* No date.  
**N.Dak.** *abbr.* North Dakota.  
**Nde-be-le** (nē'dē-bē'lē) *n., pl. Ndebele* or *-les*. 1. A member of a Zulu people of southwest Zimbabwe. 2. The Nguni language of the Ndebele.  
**Ndja-me-na** or **N'Dja-me-na** (nā-jā'mē-nā). Formerly **Fort-Lamy** (fōr-lā-mē'). The cap. of Chad, in the SW part of the Shari R.; founded by the French in 1900. Pop. 303,000.  
**Ndong-o** (nōng'gō) *n., pl. Ndongo* or *-os*. See **Mbundu** 3.  
**Ne** The symbol for the element neon 1.  
**NE** *abbr.* 1. Nebraska. 2. Or **N.E.** New England. 3.a. Northeast. b. Northeastern. 4. Not equal to.  
**Ne.** *abbr.* Bible. Nehemiah.  
**NEA** *abbr.* National Education Association.  
**Ne-an-der-thal** (nē-ān'dər-thōl', -tōl', nā-ān'dər-tāl') *n.* 1. Neanderthal man. 2. *Slang.* A crude or boorish person. — *adj.* 1. Of, having to do with, or resembling Neanderthal man. 2. *Slang.* Crude or boorish. — **Ne-an'der-thal'oid'** (-thō'lōid', -tōl'-, -tā'-) *adj.*  
**Neanderthal man** *n.* An extinct species or race of human beings, *Homo neanderthalensis*, living during the late Pleistocene Age in the Old World and associated with Middle Paleolithic tools. [After *Neanderthal*, valley of W Germany.]  
**ne-an-throp-ic** (nē-an-thrōp'ik) *adj.* Of or relating to members of the extant species *Homo sapiens* as compared with other, now extinct species of *Homo*.  
**Ne-a-pol-i-tan** (nē-ā-pōl'i-tān) *adj.* Of, belonging to, or characteristic of Naples, Italy. — *n.* A native or resident of Naples, Italy. [*ME* < *Lat. Neapolitanus* < *Gk. neapolitēs* < *Neapolis*, Naples, Italy.]  
**Neapolitan ice cream** *n.* Ice cream in brick form with layers of different colors and flavors.  
**neap tide** (nēp) *n.* A tide that occurs during the first and third quarters of the moon when the difference between high and low tide is least; the lowest level of high tide. [*ME neep* < *OE nēp(flood)*, neap (tide).]  
**near** (nīr) *adv.* **near-er**, **near-est**. 1. To, at, or within a short distance or interval in space or time. 2. Just about; almost; nearly. 3. With or in a close relationship. — *adj.* **nearer**, **nearest**. 1. Close in time, space, position, or degree. 2. Closely related by kinship or association; intimate. See **Syns at close**. 3.a. Nearly occurring but not actually happening. b. Just barely avoided. 4.a. Closely corresponding to or resembling an original. b. Closely resembling the genuine article. 5.a. Closer of two or more: *on the near side*. b. Being on the left side of an animal or a vehicle. c. Being the animal or vehicle on the left. 6. Short and direct. 7. Stingy; parsimonious. — *prep.* Close to. — *v.* **neared**, **near-ing**, **nears**. — *tr.* To come close or closer to. — *intr.* To draw near or nearer; approach. [*ME* *near* < *OE nēar* < comp. of *nēah*, close, near. See *nēhw-iz'*.] — **near-ness** *n.*  
**near beer** *n.* A malt liquor that does not contain enough alcohol to be considered an alcoholic beverage.  
**near-by** (nīr'bi') *adj.* Located a short distance away; close at hand. See **Syns at close**. — *adv.* Not far away.  
**Ne-arc-tic** (nē-ārk'tik, -ār'tik) *adj.* Of or being the biogeographic region that includes the Arctic and Temperate areas of North America and Greenland. [*NE(O)*- + *ARCTIC*.]  
**Near East** (nīr). A region of SW Asia generally thought to include Turkey, Lebanon, Israel, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the other countries of the Arabian Peninsula. — **Near East/ern** *adj.*  
**Near Islands.** An island group of SW AK in the W Aleutians.  
**near-ly** (nīr'lī) *adv.* 1. Almost but not quite: *I nearly failed*. 2. In a close manner; intimately.  
**near miss** *n.* 1. A narrowly avoided collision. 2. A missile

strike that is extremely close  
**near point** *n.* The nearest point distinctly by the eye.  
**near rhyme** *n.* See **off rhyme**.  
**near-sight-ed** (nīr'sī'tīd) *adj.* clearly; myopic. — **near'sigh-ness** *n.*  
**neat**<sup>1</sup> (nēt) *adj.* **neat-er**, **neat-er**. 2. Orderly and precise in procedure by ingenuity and skill; adroit or other substances: *neat whisky*; *neat profit*. 6. *Slang.* *Wor* pure, var. of *OFr. net* < *La nitère*, to shine. — **neat'ly** *adv.*  
**Syns:** neat, tidy, trim, sh marked by good order and choral: a neat room; neat hair. 7 ment and order: "When she dressed, she even smiled" (C especially smart appearance trim little sailboat was dancing Melville). Shipshape evokes r make this barn a little more  
**neat**<sup>2</sup> (nēt) *n., pl. neat*. *Archai* vine animal. [*ME* *net* < *OE*;  
**neat-en** (nēt'n) *tr. v.* -ened, -en make neat.  
**neath** or **neath** (nēth) *prep.* *B* **neat-herd** (nēt'hurd') *n.* *Arch* **neat's-foot oil** (nēt's'fōot') *n.* *f* the feet and shinsbones of catt  
**neb** (nēb) *n.* 1.a. A beak of a projecting part, esp. a nib. [*N* **NEB** *abbr.* New English Bible.  
**neb-bish** (nēb'ish) *n.* A persc timid. [*Yiddish nebekh*, poor, 'bhag-\*.] — **neb'bish'y** *adj.*  
**NEBe** *abbr.* Northeast by east.  
**NEBN** *abbr.* Northeast by north  
**NEbr.** *abbr.* Nebraska.  
**Ne-bras-ka** (nə-brās'kə). A s Great Plains; admitted as the coln. Pop. 1,584,617.  
**Ne-bras-kan** (nə-brās'kən) *adj* 2. *Geol.* Of or relating to the tocene in North America. — *n* **Ne-bu-u-chad-nēz-zar II** (nēb' 562 b.c. King of Babylon (t and destroyed (586) Jerusalem **neb-u-la** (nēb'yā-lə) *n., pl. -la* diffuse mass of interstellar du minous patches or areas of d the mass absorbs or reflects ir 1a. 2. *Pathol.* A cloudy spc in the urine. 3. A liquid medic ule, mist < *Lat. nebula*. See r **nebular hypothesis** *n.* A theory term according to which a ro tracted into the planets and tl **neb-u-lize** (nēb'yā-līz') *tr. v.* convert (a liquid) to a fine spr medicated spray. — **neb'u- -neb'u-liz'er** *n.*  
**neb-u-los-i-ty** (nēb'yā-lōs'i-tī) condition of being nebulous. mass of material constituting **neb-u-lous** (nēb'yā-lōs) *adj.* 2. Lacking definite form or lin 3. Of, relating to, or characte *nebulōsus* < *nebula*, cloud. *adv.* — **neb'u-lous-ness** *n.*  
**ne-c-es-sar-i-ly** (nēs'ī-sār'ē-lē) evitably.  
**ne-c-es-sar-y** (nēs'ī-sēr'ē) *adj* **Syns at indispensable**. 2. Need effect; requisite. 3.a. Unavoid or circumstances; inevitable. l quired by obligation, compul -les. Something indispensable. *saire* < *Lat. necessarius* < *neu* **ne-c-es-si-tar-i-an-ism** (nə-sī) The doctrine holding that even preceding causes. — **ne-c'es'si-ne-c-es-si-tate** (nə-sēs'ī-tāt') 1. To make necessary or unav- ple. [*Med.Lat. necessariū*, nec- essity. See *necessary*.] — **ne-c-ta'tive** *adj.*  
**ne-c-es-si-tous** (nə-sēs'ī-təs) *ac* pelling; urgent. [*Fr. nécessiteu* site, necessity. See *necessity*.] — **ne-c-es-si-ty** (nə-sēs'ī-tē) *n., p*