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tar-get (tär'git) *n.* [ME < MFr *targette*, dim. of *targe*, a shield < Frank **targa*, akin to prec.] 1 [Historical] a small shield, esp. a round one 2 *a*) a round, flat board, straw coil, etc., often one marked with concentric circles, set up to be aimed at, as in archery or rifle practice *b*) any object that is shot at, thrown at, etc. 3 *a*) an objective; goal 4 someone or something that is the focus of attention, interest, etc. 5 *a*) ship, building, site, etc. that is the object of a military attack 6 an object of verbal attack, criticism, or ridicule 7 something resembling a target in shape or use; specif., *a*) the sliding sight on a surveyor's leveling rod *b*) a disk-shaped signal on a railroad switch *c*) a metallic insert, usually of tungsten or molybdenum, in the anode of an X-ray tube, upon which the stream of cathode rays impinges and from which X-rays emanate *d*) a surface, object, etc. subjected to irradiation or to bombardment as by nuclear particles —*vt.* to establish as a target, goal, etc. —*on target* completely accurate; precise

***target date** a date aimed at, as for the end of a project

target language 1 the language into which a text in a given language is to be translated: compare SOURCE LANGUAGE (sense 1) 2 a language other than one's own that one is learning

Tar-gum (tär'gum, tär'göom) *n., pl.* **Tar'-gums** or **Tar-gu-mim** (tär'göom'im) [MHeb < Aram *targūm*, lit., interpretation] any of several translations or paraphrases of parts of the Jewish Scriptures, written in the vernacular (Aramaic) of Judea

***Tar-heel** (tär'hel') *n.* [Informal] a person born or living in North Carolina, called the **Tarheel State**

tar-iff (tär'if) *n.* [It *tariffa* < Ar *tārīf*, information, explanation < *arafa*, to know, inform] 1 a list or system of taxes placed by a government upon exports or, esp., imports 2 a tax of this kind, or its rate 3 any list or scale of prices, charges, etc. 4 [Informal] any bill, charge, fare, etc. —*vt.* 1 to make a schedule of tariffs on; set a tariff on 2 to fix the price of according to a tariff

Tar-rim (tär'rēm', dā'-) river in NW China flowing from the Tian Shan into E Xinjiang region: c. 1,300 mi (2,092 km)

Tar-king-ton (tär'kīn tən), (Newton) Booth 1869-1946; U.S. novelist

tar-la-tan or **tar-le-tan** (tär'lə tən) *n.* [Fr *tarlatane*, earlier *tarlatane* < ?] a thin, stiff, open-weave muslin

tar-mac (tär'mak') *n.* [fol.] 1 TARMACADAM 2 [Chiefly Brit.] an airport runway or apron 3 [Chiefly Brit.] a paved road

tar-ma-cad-am (tär'mə kad'am) *n.* [TAR + MACADAM] a mixture of small broken stones and a tar or asphalt binder, used to pave roads: cf. MACADAM

tarn (tärn) *n.* [ME *terne* < or akin to ON *tjörn*, tarn, lit., hole filled with water] a small lake, esp. one that fills a cirque

tar-na-tion (tär nā'shən) *n., interj.* [prob. < *tarnal* (short dial. form of ETERNAL) & (DAMNATION) dial. var. of DAMNATION; also used as an intensifier [what in tarnation is that?]]

tar-nish (tär'nish) *vt.* [< Fr *terniss-*, inflectional stem of *ternir*, to make dim < MFr, prob. < OHG *ternjan*, to conceal < *tarni*, hidden] 1 to dull the luster of or discolor the surface of (a metal) as by exposure to air 2 *a*) to besmirch or sully (a reputation, honor, etc.) *b*) to spoil, mar, or debase (to *tarnish* a memory) —*vi.* 1 to lose luster; grow dull; discolor, as from oxidation 2 to become sullied, soiled, spoiled, marred, etc. —*n.* 1 the condition of being tarnished; dullness 2 the film of discoloration on the surface of tarnished metal 3 a stain; blemish —**tar-nish-able** *adj.*

taro (ter'ō, tär'ō) *n., pl.* -ros [< a Polynesian language < Proto-Polynesian **talo*] 1 a large, tropical Asiatic plant (*Colocasia esculenta*) of the arum family, with shield-shaped leaves; it is cultivated for its edible corms that are the source of poi 2 the tuber of this plant

ta-roc or **ta-rok** (tə rāk') *n.* an old card game of Italy, Austria, etc. played with a deck of, usually, 78 cards that includes the tarot cards as trumps

tarot (tar'ō, -ə; ta rō') *n.* [Fr < MFr < OIt *tarocco*, prob. < Ar *taraha*, to reject > TARE'] [often T-] any of a set of 22 cards bearing pictures of certain traditional allegorical figures, used in fortunetelling: sometimes used in combination with other cards

***tarp** (tärp) *n.* [Informal] short for TARPULIN

***tar paper** a heavy paper impregnated with tar, used as a base for roofing, etc.

tar-pau-lin (tär pō'lin, tär'pō lin) *n.* [TAR + -paulin, prob. < *palling* < PALL?, a covering] 1 *a*) waterproof material; specif., canvas coated with a waterproofing compound *b*) a sheet of this used for spreading over something to protect it from getting wet 2 [Archaic] a sailor; tar

Tar-peia (tär pē'ə) *n. Rom. Myth.* a girl who treacherously opens the Capitoline citadel to the invading Sabines, who then crush her to death with their shields

Tar-peian (-ən) *adj.* [L *Tarpeianus*, after *Tarpeia*: see prec.] designating or of a cliff on the Capitoline Hill in Rome from which traitors to the state were hurled to their death

tar-pon (tär'pən, -pān') *n., pl.* -ponns or -pon [< ?] any of a family (Megalopidae, order Elopiformes) of bony fishes; esp., a large, silvery game fish (*Megalops atlanticus*) with very large scales, found in the warmer parts of the W Atlantic

Tar-quin (tär'kwin) (*Lucius Tarquinius Superbus*) semilegendary Etruscan king of Rome (534?-510? B.C.)

tar-ra-did-dle (tär'ə did'l) *n. alt. sp. of* TARADIDDLE

tar-ra-gon (tär'ə gān') *n.* [Sp *taragona* < Ar *tarkhūn* < ? Gr *drakōn*, DRAGON] 1 an Old World wormwood (*Artemisia dracuncul*) whose fragrant leaves are used for seasoning, esp. in vinegar 2 the leaves of this plant

tar-ri-ance (tär'ri əns) *n.* [Archaic] 1 the act of tarrying; delay 2 a sojourn; stay

tarry¹ (tar'ē) *vi.* -ried, -ry-ing [ME *tarien*, to delay, vex, hinder < OE *tergan*, to vex, provoke, prob. infl. by ME *targen*, to retard < OFr *targer* < VL **tardicare* < L *tardare*, to delay < *tardus*, slow > TARDY] 1 to delay, linger, be tardy, etc. 2 to stay for a time, esp. longer than originally intended; remain temporarily 3 to wait —*vt.* [Archaic] to wait for —*n.* [Now Rare] a sojourn; stay —**SYN.** STAY —**tar'-rier** *n.*

tarry² (tär'ē) *adj.* -rier, -ri-est 1 of or like tar 2 covered or smeared with tar —**tar'-ri-ness** *n.*

tars- combining form TARSO-: used before a vowel

tar-sal (tär'səl) *adj.* [< ModL *tarsus* (see TARSUS) + -AL] of the tarsus of the foot or the tarsi of the eyelids —*n.* a tarsal bone or plate: see SKELETON, illus.

tar sands *Geol.* sands or sandstone deposits containing tarry, viscous, bituminous oil

Tar-shish (tär'shish') *n.* seaport or maritime region of uncertain location, mentioned in the Bible: cf. I Kings 10:22

tarsi (tär'si') *n. pl.* of TARSUS

tar-sier (tär'sē ər) *n.* [Fr, so named by BUFFON < *tarse*, TARSUS, from the foot structure] any of a family (Tarsiidae) of small primates of the East Indies and the Philippines, with very large, gogglelike eyes, and a long, tufted tail: tarsiers live in trees, are active at night, and feed esp. on lizards and insects

tarso- (tär'sō, -sə) [< ModL *tarsus*] combining form tarsus or tarsal [tarsometatarsus]

tarso-meta-tar-sus (tär'sō met'ə tär' səs) *n.* [prec. + METATARSUS] the large bone in the lower part of a bird's leg, connecting the tibia with the toes

tar-sus (tär'səs) *n., pl.* **tar'si** (-sī') [ModL < Gr *tarsos*, flat of the foot, any flat surface, orig. a wickerwork frame for drying fruits or cheeses < IE base **ters-*, to dry > THIRST, L *torridus*] 1 *Anat. a*) the human ankle, consisting of seven bones between the tibia and metatarsus *b*) the small plate of connective tissue stiffening the eyelid 2 *Zool. a*) a group of bones in the ankle region of the hind limbs of tetrapods *b*) TARSOMETATARSUS *c*) the fifth segment from the base of an insect leg (see INSECT, illus.)

Tar-sus (tär'səs) city in S Turkey, near the Mediterranean: in ancient times, the capital of Cilicia & birthplace of the Apostle Paul: pop. 169,000

tart¹ (tärt) *adj.* [ME < OE *teart* < PGmc **trat-* < IE base **der-* > TEAR] 1 sharp in taste; sour; acid; acidulous 2 sharp in meaning or implication; cutting [a tart answer] —**SYN.** SOUR —**tart'ly** *adv.* —**tart'-ness** *n.*

tart² (tärt) *n.* [ME *tarte* < OFr, prob. var. of *tourte* < LL(Ec) *torta*, twisted loaf < L *tortus*; see TORT] 1 a small shell of pastry filled with jam, jelly, etc. 2 in England, a small pie filled with fruit or jam and often having a top crust

tart³ (tärt) *n.* [< prec., orig., slang term of endearment] [Informal] a prostitute or any promiscuous woman —**tart up** [Slang, Chiefly Brit.] to clothe, furnish, or decorate in a showy and, often, vulgar way —**tart'y** *adj.*

tar-tan¹ (tär'tən) *n.* [prob. < MFr *tiretaine*, a cloth of mixed fibers < OFr *tiret*, a kind of cloth < *tire*, cloth (of silk) from the East < ML *tyrius*, material from Tyre < L *Tyros*, TYRE; sp. infl. by ME *tartarin*, a rich material < MFr (*drap*) *tartarin*, Tartar (cloth)] 1 woolen cloth with a woven pattern of straight lines of different colors and widths crossing at right angles, esp. as worn in the Scottish Highlands, where each clan has its own pattern 2 any plaid cloth like this 3 any tartan pattern 4 a garment made of tartan —*adj.* of, like, or made of tartan

tar-tan² (tär'tən) *n.* [Fr *tartane* < It *tartana*, prob. ult. < Ar *tarrād* (colloquial form *tatrida*), small, swift kind of ship] a small, single-masted Mediterranean ship with a large lateen sail and a jib

tar-tar (tär'tər) *n.* [ME < ML *tartarum* < MGr *tartaron* < ?] 1 cream of tartar, esp. the crude form present in grape juice and forming a reddish or whitish, crustlike deposit (*argol*) in wine casks 2 a hard deposit on the teeth, consisting of saliva proteins, food deposits, various salts, as calcium phosphate, etc.; dental calculus

Tar-tar (tär'tər) *n.* [ME *Tartre* < ML *Tartarus*, a Tatar, altered (after TARTARUS) < Pers *Tātār*] 1 TATAR 2 [usually t-] an irritable, violent, intractable person —*adj.* TATAR —**catch a tartar** to attack or oppose someone too strong for one; get more than one bargained for

Tar-tar-ean (tär ter'ē ən, -tär'-) *adj.* of Tartarus; infernal **tartar emetic** antimony potassium tartrate, $K(SbO)_4H_2O \cdot 2H_2O$, a poisonous, odorless, white salt used in medicine to cause expectoration, vomiting, and perspiration, and in dyeing as a mordant

Tar-tar-ian (tär ter'ē ən) *adj.* TATAR

tar-tar-ic (tär tar'ik, -tär'-) *adj.* of, containing, or derived from tartar or tartaric acid

tartaric acid an acid, $HOOC(CHOH)_2COOH$, a clear, colorless crystal or a white, crystalline powder, found in vegetable tissues and fruit juices and obtained commercially from tartar: it is used in dyeing, photography, medicine, etc.

tar-tar-ous (tär'tər əs) *adj.* of, like, or containing tartar

tar-tar sauce (tär'tər) [Fr *sauce tartare*] a sauce, as for seafood, consisting of mayonnaise with chopped pickles, olives, capers, etc.: also sp. **tar'-tare sauce**

tartar steak STEAK TARTARE

Tar-ta-rus (tär'tə rəs) *n.* [L < Gr *Tartaros*] Gr. Myth. 1 an infernal

See the inside front cover for pronunciation information.
The symbol * is used to mark terms of American origin.