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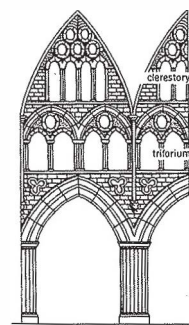
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trickle-down

trigraph



tricorn

trident
Detail of a bell crater
showing Poseidon holding
a trident

triforium

tery at a continuous low rate to keep it fully charged.

trick•le-down also **trick•le-down** (trik'əl-doun') *adj.* Of or relating to the trickle-down theory: *the trickle-down effect.*

trickle-down theory *n.* An economic theory that financial benefits to big business will in turn pass down to smaller businesses and consumers.

trick or treat *interj.* Used as a greeting by children when trick-or-treating.

trick-or-treat (trik'ər-trēt') *intr.v.* -treat•ed, -treat•ing, -treats. To engage in the practice of asking for treats on Halloween and threatening to play tricks on those who refuse.

trick•ster (trik'stər) *n.* One that swindles or plays tricks.

trick•sy (trik'sē) *adj.* -si•er, -si•est. 1. Smartly attired; dapper. 2. Sportive; mischievous. 3. Crafty; cunning; devious. 4. Likely to cause trouble and therefore requiring special care.

trick•y (trik'ē) *adj.* -i•er, -i•est. 1. Given to or characterized by trickery. 2. Requiring caution or skill: *a tricky recipe.*

— **trick'i•ly** *adv.* — **trick'i•ness** *n.*

tri•clin•ic (tri-klīn'ik) *adj.* Having three unequal axes intersecting at oblique angles. Used of certain crystals.

tri•clin•ium (tri-klīn'ē-əm) *n., pl. -i•a (-ē-ə).* 1. A couch facing three sides of a rectangular table, used by the ancient Greeks and Romans for reclining at meals. 2. A room with such a couch or couches; a dining room. [Lat. *triclinium* < Gk. *triklinion*, dim. of *triklinos*, room with three couches: *tri*, three; see *trei-* + *klinē*, couch; see *klei-*•.]

tri•col•or (tri'kūl'ər) *n.* 1. A flag having three colors. 2. Also **Tricolor**. The French flag. — *adj.* also **tri•col•ored** (-əd). Having three colors.

tri•corn also **tri•corne** (tri'kōrn) *n.* A hat having the brim turned up on three sides. — *adj.* Having three corners, horns, or projections. [Fr. *tricorn* < Lat. *tricornis*, three-horned: *tri*, tri- + *cornū*, horn; see *ker-*•.]

tri•corn•ered (tri'kōr'nərd) *adj.* Having three corners.

tri•cos•tate (tri-kōs'tāt') *adj.* Having three costae.

tri•cot (trē'kō) *n.* 1. A plain knitted cloth of any of various yarns. 2. A soft ribbed cloth of wool or a wool blend, usu. used for dresses. [Fr. < *tricot*, to knit < OFr., to beat, run < *tricot*, short thick stick, dim. of *estrique*, trique, stick for leveling measures of grain < *estrique*, to strike off, of Gmc. orig. See *streig-*•.]

tri•cō•tine (tri-kā-tēn', trē'kə-) *n.* A sturdy worsted fabric with a double twill. [Fr. < *tricot*, *tricot*. See *tricot*•.]

tri•crot•ic (tri-krot'ik) *adj.* *Medic.* Having three waves or elevations to one beat of the pulse. [< Gk. *trikrotos*, having a triple beat: *tri*, three; see *trei-* + *kroten*, to beat.]

tri•cus•pid (tri-kūs'pid) *n.* An organ or a part, esp. a tooth, having three cusps. — *adj.* also **tri•cus•pi•dal** (-pi-dəl) or **tri•cus•pi•date** (-pi-dāt'). 1. Having three cusps. 2. Of or relating to the tricuspid valve. [< Lat. *tricusps*, *tricuspid*, having three points: *tri*, tri- + *cusps*, point.]

tricuspid valve *n.* The three-segmented valve of the heart that keeps blood in the right ventricle from flowing back into the right atrium.

tri•cy•cle (tri'sik'əl, -sī-kəl) *n.* A three-wheeled vehicle, used esp. by small children and usu. propelled by pedals. [Fr.: *tri*, three (< Gk. *tri*; see *tri-*) + Gk. *kuklos*, wheel; see *cycle*•.]

tri•cy•clic (tri-sī'klik, -sik'lik) *adj.* *Chem.* Having or being a molecular structure that contains three closed rings: *a tricyclic molecule.* — *n.* A tricyclic antidepressant drug.

tricyclic antidepressant *n.* Any of a group of antidepressant drugs that block the reuptake of norepinephrine and serotonin in the central nervous system.

tri•dac•tyl (tri-dāk'tal) also **tri•dac•ty•lous** (-tə-ləs) *adj.* Having three digits or claws on each limb. [Gk. *tridaktulos*, three-fingered: *tri*, tri-; see *trei-* + *daktulos*, finger.]

tri•dent (trīd'nt) *n.* 1. A long three-pronged fork or weapon, esp. a three-pronged spear used for fishing. 2. Gk. & Rom. *Myth.* The three-pronged spear carried by Neptune or Poseidon. — *adj.* also **tri•den•tate** (tri-dēn'tāt). Having three protrusions, such as teeth or prongs. [ME < OFr. < Lat. *tridēns*, *trident*: *tri*, tri- + *dēns*, tooth; see *dent-*•.]

Tri•den•tine (tri-dēn'tin', -tēn') *adj.* Of or relating to a council held by the Roman Catholic Church in Trent, Italy, from 1545 to 1563 or to the results of that council. — *n.* A Roman Catholic who conforms to the Tridentine Creed. [Med.Lat. *Tridentinus* < Lat., area around Tridentum, from *Tridentum* (Trent).]

tri•di•men•sion•al (tri'di-mēn'shə-nəl, -di-) *adj.* Of, relating to, or having three dimensions.

tried (trīd) *v.* P.t. and p.part. of *try*. — *adj.* 1. Thoroughly tested and proved to be good or trustworthy. 2. Made to undergo trials or distress. Often used in combination: *a much-tried teacher.*

tried and true *adj.* Tested and proved to be worthy or good.

tri•en•ni•al (tri-ēn'ē-əl) *adj.* 1. Occurring every third year. 2. Lasting three years. — *n.* 1. A third anniversary. 2. An event occurring every three years. [< Lat. *triennius* < *triennium*, triennium. See *triennium*•.] — **tri•en•ni•al•ly** *adv.*

tri•en•ni•um (tri-ēn'ē-əm) *n., pl. -en•ni•ums or -en•ni•a* (-ēn'ē-ə). A period of three years. [Lat.: *tri*, tri- + *annus*, year; see *at-*•.]

tri•er (tri'ər) *n.* 1. a. One that tries; a test or tester. b. One who keeps attempting something despite failure. 2. *Law.* One who examines and settles a case; a judge or juror. 3. a. An instrument or a device that sifts, filters, or separates grain, for example, from impurities. b. An instrument or a device, such as a tube, for taking samples, as of wine.

tri•er•arch (tri'ər-ärk') *n.* 1. The captain of a Greek trireme. 2. An Athenian who outfitted and maintained a trireme as a part of his civic duties. [Lat. *triērarchus* < Gk. *triērarkhos*: *triērēs*, trireme; see *trei-* + *arkhos*, ruler; see *-arch*•.]

tri•er•ar•chy (tri'ər-är'kē) *n., pl. -chies*. 1. The authority or office of a trierarch. 2. The system whereby an Athenian furnished and maintained a trireme for the polis.

tries (trīz) *v.* Third pers. sing. p.t. of *try*. — *n.* Pl. of *try*.

Tri•este (trē-est', -ēs'tē). A city of extreme NE Italy on the Gulf of Trieste, an inlet of the Gulf of Venice at the head of the Adriatic Sea. From 1947 to 1954 it was the center of the Free Territory of Trieste administered by the United Nations. Pop. 251,380.

tri•fa•cial (tri-fā'shəl) *adj.* Trigeminal.

tri•fec•ta (tri-fēk'ta) *n.* *Sports & Games.* A system of betting in which the bettor must pick the first three winners in the correct sequence. [TRI- + (PER)FECTA.]

tri•fid (tri'fid') *adj.* Divided or cleft into three narrow parts or lobes. [Lat. *trifidus*: *tri*, tri- + *findere*, *fid-*, to split.]

tri•fle (tri'fəl) *n.* 1. Something of little importance or value. 2. A small amount; a jot. 3. A dessert typically consisting of plain or sponge cake soaked in sherry, rum, or brandy and topped with jam or jelly, custard, and whipped cream. 4. a. A moderately hard variety of pewter. b. trifles. Utensils made from this variety of pewter. — *v.* -fled, -fling, -fles. — *intr.* 1. To deal with something as if it were of little significance or value. 2. To act, perform, or speak with little seriousness or purpose; jest. 3. To play or toy with something. — *tr.* To waste (time, for example). — *idiom.* a trifler. Very little; somewhat. [ME *trufle*, *trifle* < OFr. *trufle*, mockery, dim. of *truffe*, deception.] — **tri•fler** (tri'flər) *n.*

tri•fling (tri'fling) *adj.* 1. Of slight worth or importance. 2. Frivolous or idle. — **tri•fling•ly** *adv.*

tri•fo•cal (tri-fō'kəl, tri'fō'-) *adj.* 1. Having three focal lengths. 2. Having one section that corrects for distant vision, a second section that corrects for medium vision, and a third that corrects for near vision, as an eyeglass lens. — *n.* 1. A trifocal lens. 2. trifocals. Eyeglasses having trifocal lenses.

tri•fo•li•ate (tri-fō'li-āt) also **tri•fo•li•at•ed** (-ā'tid) *adj.* Having three leaves or leaflike parts, as in the trillium.

tri•fo•li•o•late (tri-fō'li-ō-lāt') *adj.* Having three leaflets.

tri•fo•ri•um (tri-fōr'ē-əm, -fōr'-) *n., pl. -fo•ri•a* (-fōr'ē-ā, -fōr'-). *Archit.* A gallery of arches above the side-aisle vaulting in the nave of a church. [Med.Lat., a gallery in Canterbury Cathedral (later taken to mean "with three openings").]

tri•form (tri'fōrm') also **tri•form** (-fōrm') *adj.* Having three different forms or parts.

tri•fur•cate (tri-fūr'kāt, -kāt', tri'fər-kāt') also **tri•fur•cat•ed** (tri'fər-kāt'id) *adj.* Having three forks or branches: *trifurcate antennae.* — **tri•fur•ca•tion** *n.*

tri•g¹ (trīg) *adj.* 1. Smart and trim, as in looks. 2. Being in good condition. — *tr.v.* **trigged**, **tri•gging**, **trigs**. To make trim or neat, esp. in dress. [ME, true < ON *tryggr*, loyal, true. See *deru-*•.] — **tri•g•ly** *adv.* — **tri•g•ness** *n.*

tri•g² (trīg) *tr.v.* **trigged**, **tri•gging**, **trigs**. 1. To stop (a wheel) from rolling, as with a wedge. 2. To prop up; support. — *n.* A wedge or other braking device. [Perh. of Scand. orig.; akin to ON *tryggr*, firm. See *tri•g¹*•.]

trig *abbr.* *Math.* 1. Trigonometric. 2. Trigonometry.

tri•gem•i•nal (trijēm'ə-nəl) *adj.* Of or relating to the trigeminal nerves; trifacial.

trigeminal nerve *n.* Either of the fifth pair of cranial nerves, having sensory and motor functions in the face, teeth, mouth, and nasal cavity.

trigeminal neuralgia *n.* Paroxysmal shooting pains of the facial area around one or more branches of the trigeminal nerve, often precipitated by irritation of the affected area.

tri•ger (tri'gər) *n.* 1. a. The lever pressed by the finger to discharge a firearm. b. A similar device used to release or activate a mechanism. 2. An event that precipitates other events. 3. *Electron.* A pulse or circuit that initiates the action of another component. — *tr.v.* -gered, -ger•ing, -gers. 1. To set off; initiate. 2. To fire or explode (a weapon or an explosive charge). [Du. *trekker* < MDu. *trecker* < *trecken*, to pull.]

tri•ger•fish (tri'gər-fish') *n., pl. triggerfish or -fish•es*. Any of various brightly colored fishes of the family Balistidae of warm coastal waters, having an erectile spine.

tri•ger•hap•py (tri'gər-häp'ē) *adj.* *Slang.* 1. Tending or desiring to shoot a firearm before adequately identifying the target. 2. Inclined to react violently at slight provocation.

tri•ger•man (tri'gər-man) *n.* 1. An underworld gunman who in premeditation shoots a victim. 2. A gunman; a shooter.

tri•glyc•er•ide (tri-glīs'ə-rīd') *n.* An ester of three fatty acids and glycerol that is the chief constituent of fats and oils.

tri•glyph (tri'glīf') *adj.* *Archit.* An ornament in a Doric frieze, consisting of a projecting block having on its face two parallel

vertical glyphs or grooves on either vertical end, the *glyphus* < Gk. *triglyphos* carving; see *glyph*•.] — **tri•**

tri•gon (tri'gōn') *n.* 1. Mu-

man and Greek antiquity. triangle. [Lat. *trigonum* < triangular: *tri*, tri- + *gō*

trigonometric function *n.* pressed as the ratio of two contains that angle; the si-

cant, and cosecant.

tri•o•nom•e•try (trīg'ə-nom-ē-try) *n.* mathematics that deals with sides and the angles of tri-

angles, particularly the trigonometry: Gk. *trigōnomē-*

tri•gram (tri'grām') *n.* 1. A interrupted parallel lines, e-

or divination according to

tri•graph (tri'grāf') *n.* 1. Ti

vowel, or diphthong, such a-

letters, esp. of frequent occu-

in English. 3. Any combin-

tri•he•dral (tri-hē'drəl) *adj.*

meeting at a point. — *n.* Si-

tri•he•dron (tri-hē'drən) *n.*, formed by three planes me-

tri•hy•brid (tri-hī'brīd) *n.* (differ at only three gene loc-

zygous.

tri•i•o•do•thy•ro•nine (trī-i-ō-dō-thy-ro-nine) *n.* A thyroid hormone, C₁₅H₁₇ more potent, used in the tri-

trike (trik) *n.* *Informal.* A tri-

tri•lat•er•al (tri-lāt'ər-əl) *ad*

countries, or parties. [< L. later-, side.] — **tri•lat•er•a**

tri•bi•t (tri-bīt) *n., pl. tri•bi*

creased crown. [After *Triby*

tri•lin•e•ar (tri-līn'ē-ər) *adj.*

by three lines.

tri•lin•gual (tri-līng'gwəl) *a*

languages, esp. with equal f

pressed in three languages.

glasses, esp. with equal flue

tri•lit•er•al (tri-līt'ər-əl) *adj.*

of three consonants. Used ch

es. — *n.* 1. A three-letter word root or word.

tri•lith•on (tri-līth'ōn, tri'li-

prehistoric structure consisti-

to support a third on their to-

three stones: *tri*, tri- + *lith*

trill (trīl) *n.* 1. A fluttering or

certain birds; a warble. 2. A

two tones either a whole or

3. Ling. A rapid vibratic

another, as of the tongue aga

tr. b. A speech sound pronou

trilled, **tri•ling**, **trills**. — *tr.*

a trill. 2. To articulate (a sou

duce or give forth a trill. [Ita

ult. of imit. orig.]

Tri•ling (tri'ling), **Lionel**. 1

whose works include *Beyona*

tri•lion (tri'lī-ən) *n.* 1. The

2. Chiefly British. The cardin

tri, third power (< Lat. *tri*,

million; see *million*•.) — **tri•l**

tri•lionth (tri'lī-ənth) *n.* 1. Ti

number one trillion in a series.

— **tri•lionth** *adv.* & *adj.*

tri•li•um (tri-lī-əm) *n.* Any

Trillium, usu. having a single

three-petaled flower. [NLat.

Swed. *trilling*, triplet (< its th

three < OSwed. *thrir*. See *tre*

tri•lo•bate (tri-lō'bāt') or **tri**

lobed (tri'lōbd') *adj.* Having

tri•lo•bite (tri-lō'bīt') *n.* Any

thropods of the class Trilobita

segmented body divided into

lobitēs, former class name <

tri + *lobos*, lobe.] — **tri•lo**

tri•loc•u•lar (tri-lōk'yo-lər) *ad*

visions or cavities, as the cap