



SINCE 1828

primary

DICTIONARY

THESAURUS

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primary

adjective | pri·ma·ry | \ 'prī-mer-ē, 'prī-mə-rē, 'prīm-rē\

Popularity: Top 40% of words

Examples: PRIMARY in a sentence 

Definition of PRIMARY

- 1 : first in order of time or development : **PRIMITIVE** • the *primary* stage of civilization • the *primary* lesion of a disease
- 2
 - a** : of first rank, importance, or value : **PRINCIPAL** • the *primary* purpose
 - b** : **BASIC, FUNDAMENTAL** • security is a *primary* need
 - c** : of, relating to, or constituting the principal quills of a bird's wing
 - d** : of or relating to agriculture, forestry, and the extractive industries or their products
 - e** : expressive of present or future time • *primary* tense
 - f** : of, relating to, or constituting the strongest of the three or four degrees of stress recognized by most linguists • the first syllable of *basketball* carries *primary* stress
- 3
 - a** : **DIRECT, FIRSTHAND** • *primary* sources of information
 - b** : not derivable from other colors, odors, or tastes
 - c** : preparatory to something else in a continuing process • *primary* instruction
 - d** : of or relating to a primary school • *primary* education
 - e** : of or relating to a primary election • a *primary* candidate
 - f** : belonging to the first group or order in successive divisions, combinations, or ramifications • *primary* nerves
 - g** : directly derived from ores • *primary* metals
 - h** : of, relating to, or being the amino acid sequence in proteins • *primary* protein structure
- 4 : resulting from the substitution of one of two or more atoms or groups in a molecule • a *primary* amine; *especially* : being or characterized by a carbon atom having a bond to only one other carbon atom
- 5 : of, relating to, involving, or derived from primary meristem • *primary* tissue • *primary* growth

primary

- 6** : of, relating to, or involved in the production of organic substances by green plants
- *primary* productivity
- 7** : providing primary care • a *primary* physician

See *primary* defined for English-language learners

See *primary* defined for kids