



SINCE 1828

Dictionary

etiology



An Encyclopædia Britannica Company

**REVIEWED**

By Chris Tighe at 11:55 am, Aug 29, 2016

# etiology

noun | eti·ol·o·gy | \.ē-tē-'ä-lə-jē\

## Definition of ETIOLOGY

Popularity: Top 20% of words

*plural etiologies*

- 1 : CAUSE, ORIGIN; *specifically* : the cause of a disease or abnormal condition
- 2 : a branch of knowledge concerned with causes; *specifically* : a branch of medical science concerned with the causes and origins of diseases



Examples: ETIOLOGY in a sentence

## Examples of ETIOLOGY in a sentence

The scarf had been purchased in one of those tiny, exquisitely organized stores that can seduce you into thinking it matters less what you wear than how you accessorize what you wear, and the scarf came in just the noncolor colors that I like: mustard and khaki and taupe, shades of dun, nothing too vivid, yet subtly enlivening. I have traced the *etiology* of this object the better to convey the irrational significance of its loss. —Daphne Merkin, *New York Times Magazine*, 5 May 1991

## WORD OF THE DAY

# rarefied

less dense or relating to a select group

Get Word of the Day daily email!

Your email address

SUBSCRIBE

## TRENDING NOW

- 1 **hagiography**  
Who caused this spike?
- 2 **bigot, bigotry**  
Trump: "Hillary Clinton is a bigot!"
- 3 **ransom**  
"We do not pay ransom"
- 4 **redact**  
That's classified
- 5 **pivot**  
"I mean, you have to be you"