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UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY

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plains-man (plānz'men), *n.*, *pl.* -men. an inhabitant of the plains. [1795-1805; PLAIN + -s + -man]

Plains' of A/braham, a high plain adjoining the city of Quebec, Canada: battlefield where the English under Wolfe defeated the French under Montcalm in 1759.

plain-song (plān'sōng', -sōng'), *n.* 1. the unisonous vocal music used in the Christian church from the earliest times. 2. modal liturgical music; Gregorian chant. 3. a cantus firmus or theme chosen for contrapuntal development. 4. any simple and unadorned melody or air. Also, **plain' song'**. Also called **plainchant** (for defs. 1, 2). [1505-15; trans. of ML *cantus planus*]

plain-spo-ken (plān'spō'ken), *adj.* 1. candid; frank; blunt. 2. using simple, direct language: a plain-spoken politician. [1670-80]

—Syn. direct, open, forthright.

plain-stones (plān'stōnz'), *n.pl.* Scot. 1. flagstones. 2. (used with a singular *v.*) a flagstone walk or passageway. Also, **plain-stanes** (plān'stānz'). [1765-75; PLAIN + STONE + -s]

plain' suit', *Cards.* a suit other than the trump suit. Also called **side suit**.

plaint (plānt), *n.* 1. a complaint. 2. *Law.* a statement of grievance made to a court for the purpose of asking redress. 3. a lament; lamentation. [1175-1225; ME < MF < L *planctus* a striking or beating (the breast) in grief, equiv. to *plangere* to beat, strike, mourn for + -tus, suffix of *v.* action]

plain' ta-ble, *Survey.* See **plane table**.

plain-text (plān'tekst'), *n.* the intelligible original message of a cryptogram, as opposed to the coded or enciphered version. Also called **clear text**. Cf. **cryptography**. [1915-20; PLAIN + TEXT]

plain-tiff (plān'tif), *n.* *Law.* a person who brings suit in a court (opposed to *defendant*). [1350-1400; ME *plaintif* complaining person, *n.* use of the *adj.*: PLAIN-TIVE] —**plain'tiff-ship'**, *n.*

plain-tive (plān'tiv), *adj.* expressing sorrow or melancholy; mournful: a plaintive melody. [1350-1400; PLAIN + -ive; *r.* ME *plaintif* < MF] —**plain-tive-ly**, *adv.* —**plain'tive-ness**, *n.*

—Syn. wistful, sorrowful, sad. —Ant. happy, joyful.

plain' tripe', the fatty, inner lining of the first stomach (the rumen) of a steer, calf, hog, or sheep, having a bland taste and used as a food, esp. in the preparation of such dishes as haggis, head cheese, etc. Cf. **honeycomb tripe**.

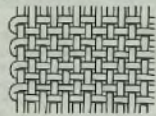
plain-va-nil-la (plān've nil'ə), *adj.* *Informal.* having no embellishments, extra equipment, elaborate packaging, etc.; plain; simple; down-to-earth: I want a plain-vanilla car without a lot of chrome trim. [in allusion to vanilla ice cream, taken to be the most basic flavor]

Plain-view (plān'vyōō'), *n.* 1. a town on W Long Island, in SE New York. 28,037. 2. a city in N Texas. 22,187.

Plain-ville (plān'vil), *n.* a town in N Connecticut. 16,401.

plain' weave', the most common and tightest of basic weave structures in which the filling threads pass over and under successive warp threads and repeat the same pattern with alternate threads in the following row, producing a checked surface. Cf. **satin weave**, **twill weave**. [1935-40]

plain weave



plain-wrap (plān'rap'), *adj.* packaged in a plain wrapper, esp. one displaying no brand name; no-frills: the growing popularity of plain-wrap products.

plais-ter (plā'stər), *n.*, *v.t.* Archaic. plaster.

plait (plat), *n.* 1. a braid, esp. of hair or straw. 2. a pleat or fold, as of cloth. —*v.t.* 3. to braid, as hair or straw. 4. to make, as a mat, by braiding. 5. to pleat. [1350-1400; ME *pleit* < MF *pleit* < L *plicatus*, neut. of *plicare*, ptp. of *plicare* to fold; see *PLY*]

plaiting (plā'ting, plat'ing), *n.* 1. anything that is braided or pleated. 2. plaits collectively. [1375-1425; late ME *pleyting*. See *PLAIT*, -ING]

plan (plan), *n.*, *v.*, **planned**, **plan-ning**. —*n.* 1. a scheme or method of acting, doing, proceeding, making, etc., developed in advance: battle plans. 2. a design or scheme of arrangement: an elaborate plan for seating guests. 3. a specific project or definite purpose: plans for the future. 4. Also called **plan view**, a drawing made to scale to represent the top view or a horizontal section of a structure or a machine, as a floor layout of a building. 5. a representation of a thing drawn on a plane, as a map or diagram: a plan of the dock area. 6. (in perspective drawing) one of several planes in front of a represented object, and perpendicular to the line between the object and the eye. 7. a formal program for specified benefits, needs, etc.: a pension plan. —*v.t.* 8. to arrange a method or scheme beforehand for (any work, enterprise, or proceeding): to plan a new recreation center. 9. to make plans for: to plan one's vacation. 10. to draw or make a diagram or layout of, as a building. —*v.i.* 11. to make plans: to plan ahead; to plan for one's retirement. [1670-80; < F: ground, plan, ground-

work, scheme, *n.* use of the *adj.*: flat, PLANE', learned borrowing of L *planus* level (cf. PLAIN')] —**plan'less**, *adj.* —**plan'less-ly**, *adv.* —**plan'less-ness**, *n.*

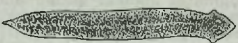
—Syn. 1. plot, formula, system. PLAN, PROJECT, DESIGN, SCHEME imply a formulated method of doing something. PLAN refers to any method of thinking out acts and purposes beforehand: What are your plans for today? A PROJECT is a proposed or tentative plan, often elaborate or extensive: an irrigation project. DESIGN suggests art, dexterity, or craft (sometimes evil and selfish) in the elaboration or execution of a plan, and often tends to emphasize the purpose in view: a misunderstanding brought about by design. A SCHEME is apt to be either a speculative, possibly impracticable, plan, or a selfish or dishonest one: a scheme to swindle someone. 4. sketch, draft, diagram, chart. 5. design, devise, plot.

plan-, var. of **plano-** before a vowel: planate.

plan-ar (plā'nər), *adj.* 1. of or pertaining to a geometric plane. 2. flat or level. [1840-50; < LL *planāris* flat, of a level surface, equiv. to L *planūm* PLANE' + -aris -AR'] —**plan-ar-i-ty** (plā nār'i tē), *n.*

plan-nari-an (plā nār'i ən), *n.* Zool. any of various free-swimming, mostly freshwater flatworms of the class Turbellaria, having an undulating or sluglike motion: popular in laboratory studies for the ability to regenerate lost parts. [1885-90; < NL *Planaria*(a) a flatworm genus (*n.* use of fem. of LL *planāris* level), on level ground; taken to mean 'flat'; see PLANE', -ARY + -AN]

planarian,
Dugesia tigrina,
length 1 1/4 in.
(3.2 cm)



plan-ate (plā'nāt), *adj.* having a plane or flat surface. [*<* LL *planātus*, ptp. of *planāre* to make smooth. See PLANE', -ATE']

plan-a-tion (plā nā'shan, plā-), *n.* Geol. the process whereby an irregular land surface is made flat or level by erosion. [1875-80; PLANE' + -ATION]

plan-er (plā'nər), *n.* the soffit of a cornice, esp. one of wood. Also, **plan-er** (plā'nər), **plan-cher** (plā'n-cher), **plan-cier** (plā'n-cher), **plansher**. [1655-65; < obs. F, equiv. to MF *plancher*. See PLANCH, -ER]

planch (plānch, plānch), *n.* 1. a flat piece of metal, stone, or baked clay, used as a tray in an enameling oven. 2. Brit. Dial. a. a floor. b. a plank. Also, **plancha**. [1300-50; ME *plancha* < MF *planche* < L *plancha* PLANK]

planch-et (plān'chit), *n.* a flat piece of metal for stamping as a coin; a coin blank. [1605-15; PLANCH + -ET]

plan-chette (plān shet', -chet'), *n.* a small, heart-shaped board supported by two casters and a pencil or stylus that, when moved across a surface by the light, unguided pressure of the fingertips, is supposed to trace meaningful patterns or written messages revealing subconscious thoughts, psychic phenomena, clairvoyant messages, etc. Cf. *Ouija*. [1855-60; < F; see PLANCH, -ETTE]

Planck (plāngk), *n.* Max Karl Ernst (māks kārnl ernst), 1858-1947, German physicist: Nobel prize 1918.

Planck's con-stant, *Physics.* the fundamental constant of quantum mechanics, expressing the ratio of the energy of one quantum of radiation to the frequency of the radiation and approximately equal to 6.624×10^{-27} erg-seconds. Symbol: *h*. Also, **Planck' con'stant**. [1905-10; named after M. K. E. PLANCK]

Planck's radia-tion law', *Physics.* 1. the law that energy associated with electromagnetic radiation, as light, is composed of discrete quanta of energy, each quantum equal to Planck's constant times the corresponding frequency of the radiation: the fundamental law of quantum mechanics. 2. the law giving the spectral distribution of radiation from a blackbody. Also called **Planck' radia-tion for-mula**, **Planck's law'**. [1905-10; named after M. K. E. PLANCK]

plane' (plān), *n.*, *adj.*, *v.*, **planned**, **plan-ing**. —*n.* 1. a flat or level surface. 2. *Geom.* a surface generated by a straight line moving at a constant velocity with respect to a fixed point. 3. *Fine Arts.* an area of a two-dimensional surface having determinate extension and spatial direction or position: oblique plane; horizontal plane. 4. a level of dignity, character, existence, development, or the like: a high moral plane. 5. *Aeron.* a. an airplane or a hydroplane: to take a plane to Dallas. b. a thin, flat or curved, extended section of an airplane or a hydroplane, affording a supporting surface. 6. *Archit.* a longitudinal section through the axis of a column. —*adj.* 7. flat or level, as a surface. 8. of or pertaining to planes or plane figures. —*v.t.* 9. to glide or soar. 10. (of a boat) to rise partly out of the water when moving at high speed. 11. *Informal.* to fly or travel in an airplane: We'll drive to Detroit and plane to Los Angeles. [1400-50 for sense "to soar"; 1640-50 for *n.* and *adj.* senses; (*n.*) < L *planum* flat surface (*n.* use of *planus* flat); (*adj.*) < L *planus*; first used to distinguish the geometrical senses formerly belonging to PLAIN'; in def. 5, shortened form of AIRPLANE, AEROPLANE, or HYDROPLANE; (*v.*) late ME *planen* (of a bird) to soar (cf. MF *planer*); akin to PLAIN'] —**plane'ness**, *n.*

—Syn. 4. stratum, stage. 7. smooth, even, flush.

plane² (plān), *n.*, *v.*, **planned**, **plan-ing**. —*n.* 1. *Carpentry.* any of various woodworking instruments for paring, truing, or smoothing, or for forming moldings, chamfers, rabbets, grooves, etc., by means of an inclined, adjustable blade moved along and against the piece being worked. 2. a trowel-like tool for smoothing the surface of clay in a brick mold. —*v.t.* 3. to smooth or dress with or as if with a plane or a planer. 4. to remove by or as if by means of a plane (usually fol. by *away* or *off*). —*v.i.* 5. to work with a plane. 6. to function as a plane. [1275-1325; (*n.*) ME < MF < LL *plāna*, deriv. of *planāre* to smooth, itself deriv. of L *planus* PLAIN'; (*v.*) ME *planen* < MF *planer* < LL *planāre*]

planes (def. 1)
A, jack plane;
B, router



plane³ (plān), *n.* See **plane tree**. [1350-1400; ME < MF < L *planatus* < Gk *plátanos*, deriv. of *platys* broad FLAT' (with reference to the leaves)]

plane' an-gle, *Math.* an angle between two intersecting lines. [1820-30]

plane' geom'etry, *Math.* the geometry of figures whose parts all lie in one plane. [1740-50]

plane' i/ron, *Carpentry.* the blade of a plane. [1575-85]

plane' of in-cidence, *Optics.* a plane determined by a given ray, incident on a surface, and the normal at the point where the incident ray strikes the surface. [1825-35]

plane' polariza-tion, *Optics.* polarization of light in which the vibrations are confined to a single plane, that of the wave front. Also called **linear polarization**. —**plane-po-lar-ized** (plān'pō'lə rīzd'), *adj.*

plan-er (plā'nər), *n.* 1. *Carpentry.* a power machine for removing the rough or excess surface from a board. 2. *Metalworking.* a machine for cutting flat surfaces, having a cutting tool supported by an overhead frame beneath which the work slides back and forth. Cf. **shaper** (def. 2). 3. *Typesetting.* a block of smooth, hardwood for leveling the type in a chase by tapping with a mallet. [1375-1425; late ME; see PLANE', -ER]

plan'er saw', *Carpentry.* a hollow-ground circular saw for ripping and cutting across grain, having rake teeth for clearing away the chips cut by the cutting teeth.

plan'er tree' (plā'nər), a small tree, *Planera aquatica*, of the elm family, growing in moist ground in the southern U.S., bearing a small, ovoid, nutlike fruit and yielding a compact light-brown wood. Also called **water elm**. [1800-10; Amer.; named after I. J. Planer, 18th-century German botanist]

plane' sail-ing, *Navig.* sailing on a course plotted without reference to the curvature of the earth. Cf. **plane sailing**, **spherical sailing**. [1690-1700]

plan-et (plan'it), *n.* 1. *Astron.* a. Also called **major planet**, any of the nine large heavenly bodies revolving about the sun and shining by reflected light: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, or Pluto in the order of their proximity to the sun. See table on next page. b. a similar body revolving about a star other than the sun. c. (formerly) a celestial body moving in the sky, as distinguished from a fixed star, applied also to the sun and moon. 2. *Astron.* the sun, moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, or Pluto: considered sources of energy or consciousness in the interpretation of horoscopes. [1300-1300; ME *planete* (< OF *planète*) < LL *planētia*, *planētia* (found only in pl. *planētae*) < Gk (*astērēs*) *planētai* wandering (stars)]

plane' ta-ble, *Survey.* a drawing board mounted on a tripod, used in the field, with an alidade, for surveying tracts of land. Also, **plain table**. [1600-10]

plane-table (plān'tā'bal), *v.t.*, *v.i.* -bled, -bling. to survey with a plane table. [1870-75]

plane-tar-i-um (plān'i tār'ē əm), *n.*, *pl.* -tar-i-um, -tar-i-a (-tār'ē ə). 1. an apparatus or model representing the planetary system. 2. a device that produces a representation of the heavens by the use of a number of moving projectors. 3. the building or room in which such a device is housed. [1765-75; < NL *n.* use of *pl.* of L *planētarius* PLANETARY; cf. -ARIUM]

plane-tary (plān'i tər'ē), *adj.* 1. of, pertaining to, or resembling a planet or the planets. 2. wandering or erratic. 3. terrestrial; global. 4. *Mach.* noting or pertaining to an epicyclic gear train in which a sun gear is linked to one or more planet gears also engaging with an encircling ring gear. —*n.* 5. *Mach.* a planetary gear train. [1585-95; < L *planētarius*. See PLANET, -ARY]

plan-et-ary neb-u-la, *Astron.* an expanding cloud of thin ionized gas that is ejected from and surrounds a dying star of about the same mass as the sun; the gas absorbs ultraviolet radiation from the central star and reemits it as visible light by the process of fluorescence. [1850-55; so named for its resemblance to the planets Uranus and Neptune]

plan-et-ary preces-sion, *Astron.* the small component of the precession of the equinoxes contributed by the motion of the ecliptic, the change in orientation of the plane of the earth's orbit being produced by the gravitational attraction of the planets. [1800-50]

plane-tes-i-mal (plān'i tēs'ē əl), *Astron.* —*n.* 1. one of the small celestial bodies that, according to the theory (planetesimal hypothesis), were fused together to form the planets of the solar system. —*adj.* 2. of or pertaining to a planetesimal or planetesimality. [1900-05; PLANET + (INFINIT)ESIMAL]

plan'et gear', *Mach.* any of the gears in an epicyclic gear train surrounding a central gear. Also called **plan'et wheel**.