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crest



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crest ^{1 of 2} noun

'krest

Synonyms of *crest*

- 1 **a** : a showy tuft or process on the head of an animal and especially a bird
→ see [bird illustration](#)
- b** : the plume or identifying emblem worn on a knight's helmet
also : the top of a helmet
- c** (1) : a heraldic representation of the crest
(2) : a heraldic device depicted above the escutcheon (see [ESCUTCHEON sense 1](#)) but not upon a helmet
(3) : [COAT OF ARMS sense 2a](#)
- d** : a ridge or prominence on a part of an animal body
- 2 : something suggesting a crest especially in being an upper prominence, edge, or limit: such as
 - a** : [PEAK](#)
especially : the top line of a mountain or hill
 - b** : the ridge of a roof
 - c** : the top of a wave
- 3 **a** : a high point of an action or process and especially of one that is rhythmic
- b** : [CLIMAX](#), [CULMINATION](#)
| at the *crest* of his fame

crestal 'kre-stəl adjective

crestless 'krest-ləs adjective

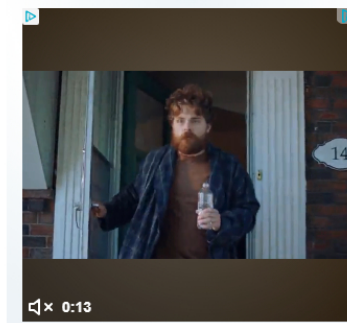
crest ^{2 of 2} verb

crested; cresting; crests

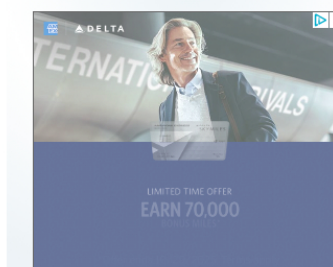
transitive verb

- 1 : to furnish with a crest
also : [CROWN](#)

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WORD OF THE DAY

2 : to reach the crest of
| *crested* the hill and looked around

intransitive verb

: to rise to a crest
| waves *cresting* in the storm

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• **Synonyms**

Noun

pinnacle

top

zenith

height

peak

culmination

apex

[See All Synonyms & Antonyms in Thesaurus >](#)

• **Examples of *crest* in a Sentence**

Noun

| at that point the filmmaker was at the ***crest*** of his critical acclaim, which included winning an Oscar for best picture

| the hiking party reached the ***crest*** of the mountain just as it began to thunder

Verb

| We ***crested*** the hill and looked out around us.

flummox

[See Definitions and Examples »](#)

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Recent Examples on the Web

① Examples are automatically compiled from online sources to show current usage. Opinions expressed in the examples do not represent those of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback.](#)

Noun

Bighorn Scenic Byway Wyoming Embrace your inner cowboy with a drive along the Bighorn Scenic Byway, which takes you over the **crest** of the Big Horn Mountains and to spots like the city of Sheridan, where New West meets Old West in the historic downtown.

— Beth Luberecki, *USA Today*, 6 Sep. 2025

Diamond Pattern The diamond pattern has been present in Japanese art since the ancient times, and is also the motif of the Okura family **crest**.

— Isabelle Kliger, *Forbes.com*, 2 Sep. 2025

Verb

Fire progress slowed as the fire **crested** some of the initial ridges and began backing downhill.

— Ca Wildfire Bot, *Sacbee.com*, 8 Sep. 2025

Both Pink Floyd and Black Sabbath **crested** in popularity in the 1970s, capturing die-hard fans amid the growing popularity of rock.

— Anna Kaufman, *USA Today*, 4 Sep. 2025

[See All Example Sentences for crest >](#)

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Word History

Etymology

Noun and Verb

Middle English *creste*, from Anglo-French, from Latin *crista*; probably akin to Latin *crinis* hair

First Known Use

Noun

14th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 1a](#)

Verb

15th century, in the meaning defined at [transitive sense 1](#)

Time Traveler

The first known use of *crest* was in the 14th century

[See more words from the same century](#)

Phrases Containing *crest*

[neural crest](#)

Rhymes for *crest*

blessed	blest	breast
chest	dressed	fest
gest	geste	guessed
jest	lest	messed

[See All Rhymes for *crest* >](#)

Browse Nearby Words

[cressy](#) **crest** [crest clearance](#)

[See All Nearby Words >](#)

Cite this Entry

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"Crest." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/crest>. Accessed 12 Sep. 2025.

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Kids Definition

crest ^{1 of 2} noun

'krest 

- 1 **a** : a showy growth (as of flesh or feathers) on the head of an animal
| **b** : an emblem or design on a helmet (as of a knight) or over a coat of arms
- 2 : an upper part, edge, or limit
| the *crest* of a hill
| the *crest* of a wave

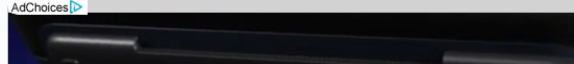
• **crested** 'kres-təd adjective

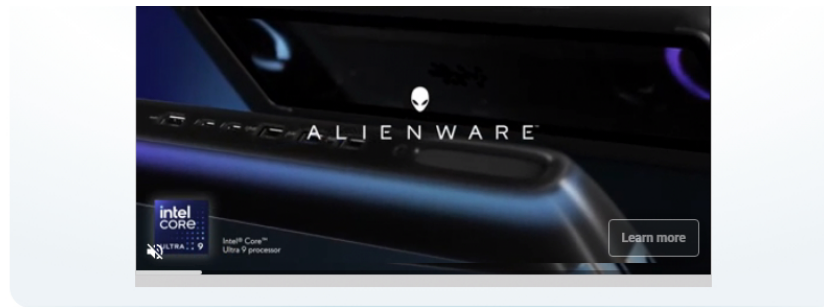
crest ^{2 of 2} verb

- 1 : to give a crest to
- 2 : to reach the crest of
| *crest* the hill
- 3 : to rise to a crest
| sea waves *cresting*

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Medical Definition

crest noun

'krest 

- 1** : a showy tuft or process on the head of an animal and especially a bird
- 2** : a process or prominence on a part of an animal body: as
 - a** : the upper curve or ridge of the neck of a quadruped (as a horse)
also : the mane borne on such a crest
 - b** : a ridge especially on a bone
| the *crest* of the tibia
→ see [FRONTAL CREST](#), [OCCIPITAL CREST](#)

More from Merriam-Webster on *crest*

English: [Translation of *crest* for Spanish Speakers](#)

Last Updated: 7 Sep 2025 - Updated example sentences

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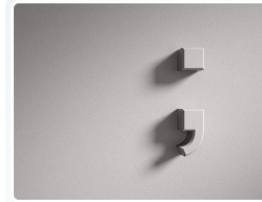
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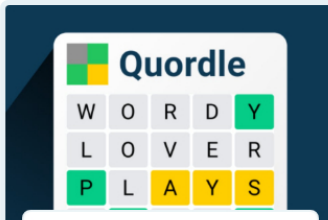
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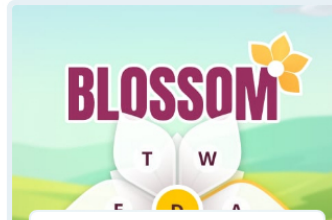
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