### **Definition of troglodyte**

1: a member of any of various peoples (as in antiquity) who lived or were reputed to live chiefly in caves

2: a person characterized by reclusive habits or outmoded or reactionary attitudes

# Synonyms for troglodyte

Synonyms

caveman,

Neanderthal

#### Did You Know?

Peer into the etymological cave of *troglodyte* and you'll find a *trōglē*. But don't be afraid. *Trōglē* may sound like a scary cave-dwelling ogre, but it's actually just a perfectly unintimidating Greek root that means "hole" or "cave." Is *troglodyte* the only English word to have descended from *trōglē*? Not exactly. *Troglodyte* and its related adjective *troglodytic* (meaning "of, related to, or being a troglodyte") are the only *trōglē* offspring that are widely used in general English contexts, but another *trōglē* progeny, the prefix *troglo*-, meaning "cave-dwelling," is used in scientific contexts to form words like *troglobiont* ("an animal living in or restricted to caves").

### Examples of *troglodyte* in a Sentence

the *troglodytes* who believed that women had no place in the military, except perhaps as nurses

# First Known Use of troglodyte

1555, in the meaning defined at sense 1

# History and Etymology for troglodyte

Latin *troglodytae*, plural, from Greek  $tr\bar{o}glodytai$ , from  $tr\bar{o}gl\bar{e}$  hole, cave (akin to Greek  $tr\bar{o}gein$  to gnaw, Armenian aracem I lead to pasture, graze) + dyein to enter