

# A Hidden Gem

D7



## Focus Morpheme

Suffix	-en
Pronunciation	The suffix -en is pronounced /en/.

## Etymology of -en

Origin	Anglo-Saxon
Meanings	made of; consisting of (adjectives) to cause to be (verbs)
Examples: woolen brighten	Look at the word <b>woolen</b> . By adding the suffix -en to the word <b>wool</b> , we create the word <b>woolen</b> , meaning “made of wool.”  Look at the word <b>brighten</b> . By adding the suffix -en to the word <b>bright</b> , we create the word <b>brighten</b> , meaning “to cause to be bright.”

## Vocabulary

- hidden
- golden
- wooden
- sunken
- strengthen
- woven
- enlighten
- deepen

## Activating Prior Knowledge

- What do you think is meant by the title “A **Hidden** Gem”? Explain your thinking.
- Have you heard that phrase used before? If so, in what context?



# A Hidden Gem

As you approach Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park in southern Alberta, a building slowly reveals itself. It's like a **hidden** gem built into the landscape...

## The Grounds at Blackfoot Crossing

The largest building at Blackfoot Crossing is the Interpretive Centre. It seems to almost float on the horizon, outlined against the western sky. On one side of the building is a high hill. This location provides an excellent view of the Interpretive Centre's teepee-covered roof and the Bow River valley beyond.

On the roof, Seven Sacred Society Lodges surround the larger Medicine Lodge. Together, they create an inspiring symbol of an ancient Blackfoot encampment. When they are lit up in the evening, they resemble teepees **brightened** by ancient cooking fires at night. These lodges are also skylights that **brighten** the interior of the Interpretive Centre with natural light in the daytime.



The Interpretive Centre at Blackfoot Crossing

### Vocabulary

#### Connections

Look at the word *encampment*. Notice the prefix *en-*, meaning “to put in” or “to make or cause to be.” *Encampment* means “the place where a camp is made or formed.” The current buildings on the site honour the ancient Blackfoot *encampment*.



The roof of the Interpretive Centre

Blackfoot Crossing is the site where Treaty 7 was signed in 1877. This was a peace treaty between five Indigenous groups, including the Blackfoot-speaking people, and the Crown's representatives.

## Inside the Interpretive Centre

A spectacular eagle feather fan made of coloured glass spreads over the Centre's front entrance. This fan represents the sacredness of the eagle in Blackfoot religion and ceremonies. Both bald and **golden** eagles are often seen flying above the building.

Visitors pass through the front doors and arrive under a beautiful teepee skylight. The design of the teepee's poles reflects the tapered cottonwood poles once used to create teepees. Like the original **wooden** poles, these huge steel poles **strengthen** the structure.

As visitors approach the windows looking out over Blackfoot Crossing, they may feel similar to how herds of buffalo felt as they approached the steep slope of a buffalo jump. At this point, visitors, like the buffalo, have no idea of the dramatic drop-off that lies before them. Fortunately, the glass wall saves visitors from sharing the buffaloes' fate.

From the main level, visitors can take the stairs or elevator down to a gorgeous **sunken** gallery where many precious artifacts are on display. **Woven** throughout the displays are the themes of Blackfoot creation, survival, celebration, and storytelling. There is so much to see and learn! A visit to Blackfoot Crossing will be sure to **enlighten** visitors and **deepen** their understanding and appreciation of the Blackfoot People and their beautiful homeland.

### Time to Talk

Explain how the buildings at Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park were designed to have special meaning. Look back at the text for examples.



A view of the buffalo jump



The "Chief Crowfoot" exhibit at Blackfoot Crossing



**Word Study**

In your Word Study notebook, add today's morpheme.

New Morpheme	Type of Morpheme	Origin	Meanings
-en	suffix	Anglo-Saxon	made of; consisting of (adjectives) to cause to be (verbs)

**Word Sort:** All of these words end in the suffix *-en*.

**soften   sharpen   earthen   golden   wooden**  
**darken   widen   ashen   sweeten   waxen**

Create a table like the one below. Sort the words according to their part of speech. Then, use a dictionary to check your word sort.

Adjectives (-en meaning "made of; consisting of")	Verbs (-en meaning "to cause to be")
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**Writing Connections**

For each word below, write a sentence that uses the word. Be sure to follow the guidelines.

	Position in Sentence	Length of Sentence
<b>wooden</b>	2nd word	= seven words
<b>sweeten</b>	3rd word	> five words
<b>soften</b>	5th word	< nine words
<b>golden</b>	4th word	> four words

