



**Everything involved in what is under consideration** - usually used in the phrase 'the whole shebang'.

*I'm getting the whole shebang for my party: balloons, flowers, fireworks, performers...*

The earliest known citation of the word uses it as some form of **hut** or other rustic dwelling. The phrase '**the whole shebang**' was first recorded in **1869**, but relation to the earlier use of the word is obscure. There are **various 'the whole' expressions** which have come from America - 'the whole ball of wax', 'the whole nine yards', 'the whole box of dice', 'the whole shooting match', 'the whole enchilada', 'the whole kit and caboodle' etc. Whilst these by and large refer to real objects, none of them represents '**wholeness**' and they have just been tacked on to 'the whole' to make catchy phrases. 'Shebang' was also used that way - and the fact that people using it didn't know what a shebang was didn't really matter: it was simply a **colorful way of saying 'thing'**.