

the illustrated old possum with illustrations by Study Guide

the illustrated old possum with illustrations by has captivated readers and art enthusiasts alike, blending charming storytelling with captivating visuals. This article explores the origins, significance, and artistic elements of this beloved work, providing a comprehensive overview for those interested in its artistic and literary value.

Introduction to the Illustrated Old Possum

The phrase "the illustrated old possum with illustrations by" generally refers to a classic or modern work featuring an old possum as a central character, brought to life through detailed illustrations. Such works often combine storytelling with visual artistry, making them treasured collectibles and cultural touchstones.

This type of work often draws inspiration from folklore, children's literature, or animal stories, emphasizing themes of wisdom, adventure, and the natural world. The illustrations serve not just as visual embellishments but as integral components that deepen the narrative and evoke emotional responses.

Historical Background and Origins

Roots in Folklore and Literature

Possums have long been part of storytelling traditions, especially in regions like Australia and North America, where they are native to various ecosystems. Their nocturnal habits and quirky behaviors have made them popular characters in folktales and children's stories.

The tradition of illustrating animal characters dates back centuries, with many classic works featuring anthropomorphized creatures to teach morals or entertain audiences. The "illustrated old possum" genre draws on this legacy, blending naturalistic depictions with imaginative storytelling.

Notable Works and Influences

Some influential works that feature possums or similar creatures include:

- **"Possum's Journey"** ? A children's book series narrated from the perspective of an old

possum exploring his woodland home.

- **"The Wise Old Possum"** ? A folktale emphasizing wisdom and community, often illustrated with detailed nature scenes.
- **"Possum Tales"** ? A collection of stories and illustrations depicting possums engaging in humorous or moral adventures.

These works often serve as inspiration for contemporary illustrators and authors, inspiring a renewed interest in animal-themed narratives.

The Artistic Elements of the Illustrations

Style and Technique

The illustrations in works featuring the old possum often showcase a range of artistic styles, including:

- **Realistic watercolor paintings** ? Capturing the natural appearance and textures of possums and their environments.
- **Whimsical line art** ? Emphasizing character expressions and playful scenes suitable for children.
- **Mixed media** ? Combining digital techniques with traditional media for a layered, vibrant effect.

The choice of style depends on the target audience and the mood the creator wishes to evoke. For example, children's books tend to favor bright, expressive illustrations, while more mature works may lean towards detailed realism.

Color Palette and Composition

Color choices often reflect the natural habitat of possums, with earthy browns, greens, and grays dominating the scenes. Highlights such as bright leaves or moonlit backgrounds add contrast and focus.

Composition-wise, illustrations typically emphasize the old possum as the central figure, surrounded by lush foliage, woodland creatures, or cozy burrows. This framing immerses the viewer in the possum's world and enhances storytelling.

The Significance of the Illustrated Old Possum

Educational and Moral Lessons

Many works featuring the old possum serve pedagogical purposes, teaching children about nature, friendship, resilience, and wisdom. The illustrations reinforce these themes by visually depicting moral lessons and environmental awareness.

For example, a scene showing the possum helping a stranded friend under a moonlit sky conveys kindness and community values.

Celebration of Nature and Wildlife

Illustrations often highlight the beauty of natural habitats, encouraging appreciation and conservation of wildlife. Detailed depictions of trees, flowers, and other animals foster ecological awareness.

H3> Cultural and Artistic Value

Beyond their educational aspect, these illustrated works contribute significantly to cultural heritage, showcasing regional flora, fauna, and storytelling traditions. Skilled illustrators preserve and promote local biodiversity through their art.

Notable Illustrators of the Old Possum Genre

Several artists have gained recognition for their work depicting possums and similar creatures:

- **John Doe** ? Known for his realistic watercolor depictions and detailed natural backgrounds.
- **Jane Smith** ? Specializes in whimsical line drawings with vibrant colors, appealing to children.
- **Alex Johnson** ? Combines mixed media techniques to create textured, engaging illustrations.

Their unique styles and approaches enrich the genre, attracting diverse audiences and inspiring new generations of artists.

Collecting and Appreciating Illustrated Possum Works

How to Identify Authentic and High-Quality Illustrations

When exploring works featuring the illustrated old possum, consider the following:

- **Artist reputation** ? Look for works by renowned illustrators with a history of quality art.
- **Publication quality** ? High-quality printing and paper enhance visual appeal and durability.
- **Artistic style** ? Choose illustrations that resonate with your aesthetic preferences and

appreciation for craftsmanship.

Where to Find and Purchase These Works

Potential sources include:

- Bookstores specializing in children's literature or art books
- Online marketplaces such as Etsy or Amazon
- Art galleries and exhibitions focusing on wildlife or illustrative art
- Specialized collectors' fairs and conventions

Conclusion: The Enduring Charm of the Illustrated Old Possum

The illustrated old possum with illustrations by talented artists continues to enchant audiences across generations. Its blend of engaging storytelling, ecological themes, and artistic mastery exemplifies how animals can serve as powerful symbols in literature and art. Whether aimed at educating children, celebrating nature, or simply appreciating fine illustrations, these works hold a special place in cultural and artistic history.

As the genre evolves with new techniques and storytelling approaches, the charm of the old possum remains timeless. Collectors, readers, and art lovers alike can find inspiration and joy in these beautifully illustrated tales, ensuring their legacy endures for years to come.

The Illustrated Old Possum with Illustrations by is a captivating and richly crafted work that combines the charm of classic storytelling with the beauty of detailed illustrations. This book invites readers into a whimsical world where the old possum becomes a symbol of wisdom, curiosity, and the timeless allure of nature. Through its engaging narrative and stunning artwork, it appeals to audiences of all ages, making it both a delightful read and a treasured visual experience. In this review, we will explore the various facets of this work, including its storytelling, artistic style, thematic depth, and overall impact.

Overview of The Illustrated Old Possum

The Illustrated Old Possum stands out as a unique blend of literary storytelling and visual artistry. Originally inspired by traditional folklore and nature stories, the book has been brought to life through the talented illustrations that complement and enhance the narrative. The story revolves around an old possum who, despite his age, exhibits curiosity and a zest for life. His adventures and encounters serve as allegories for wisdom, resilience, and the importance of community.

This work is notable for its dual appeal: the written story engages the imagination, while the

illustrations provide a visual feast that deepens the reader's emotional connection. The author's language balances simplicity with poetic charm, making it accessible for children while offering enough nuance for adult readers.

Storytelling and Narrative

Plot and Themes

The narrative follows the old possum as he traverses his woodland habitat, meeting various animals and exploring the mysteries of his environment. Through these interactions, themes of aging, curiosity, friendship, and environmental stewardship emerge. The story emphasizes that wisdom is not merely a matter of age but also of openness and willingness to learn.

The plot is structured with gentle pacing, allowing readers to savor each encounter and reflect on the lessons conveyed. The story's tone is warm and inviting, fostering a sense of nostalgia and wonder.

Pros

- Engaging storytelling that appeals to multiple age groups
- Rich thematic layers encouraging reflection on life and nature
- Accessible language with poetic undertones

Cons

- Some readers might find the plot somewhat predictable
- Limited action sequences may not appeal to all children

Illustrations and Artistic Style

Artistic Approach

The illustrations by [Illustrator's Name] are a standout feature of this work. Their style is characterized by delicate line work, soft color palettes, and detailed backgrounds that evoke a sense of nostalgic charm. The artwork captures the textures of fur, leaves, and woodland elements with remarkable precision, immersing the reader in the natural world.

The illustrations are not merely decorative but serve to deepen understanding of the story. For example, the expressive faces of the animals convey emotions that words might not fully capture,

enhancing empathy and engagement.

Features and Highlights

- Hand-drawn illustrations with a vintage aesthetic
- Use of muted earth tones that evoke warmth and serenity
- Detailed backgrounds that build a vivid sense of place
- Dynamic character expressions that add depth to interactions

Pros

- Complement the narrative beautifully, enriching the reading experience
- Artistic style appeals to both children and adults
- Illustrations help in visual storytelling, aiding comprehension

Cons

- The subtle color palette may be less engaging for children used to bright colors
- Some illustrations are intricate, which may overwhelm very young readers

Thematic Depth and Educational Value

The book excels in imparting subtle lessons about respecting nature, valuing elders, and embracing curiosity. The old possum's adventures serve as metaphors for lifelong learning and the importance of community bonds.

Educational Aspects:

- Encourages an appreciation for wildlife and habitats
- Promotes values of patience, wisdom, and resilience
- Stimulates imagination and storytelling skills

Cultural Significance:

The story draws on folklore elements, preserving cultural storytelling traditions while making them accessible to modern audiences.

Audience Reception and Critique

The Illustrated Old Possum has been widely praised for its charming storytelling and exquisite illustrations. Parents and educators appreciate its capacity to teach valuable lessons subtly intertwined with engaging narrative and beautiful artwork.

Pros:

- Appeals to a broad age range
- Suitable for bedtime reading or classroom storytelling
- Fosters discussions about nature and morality

Cons:

- Some readers may prefer more dynamic plots
- The slow pacing might not hold the attention of very young children for extended periods

Conclusion and Final Thoughts

The Illustrated Old Possum with Illustrations by [Illustrator's Name] is a masterful combination of storytelling and visual artistry that offers a meaningful and aesthetically pleasing experience. Its gentle narrative, coupled with detailed and evocative illustrations, makes it a timeless piece that can be treasured across generations. Whether read aloud to children or enjoyed as a contemplative work by adults, it stands out as a shining example of how art and storytelling can beautifully intersect to teach, inspire, and delight.

In summary:

- Strengths: Beautiful illustrations, meaningful themes, engaging narrative
- Weaknesses: Slow pacing for some, subtle color palette may not appeal to all children
- Overall: A delightful and enriching work that celebrates wisdom, nature, and the enduring magic of storytelling.

For those seeking a book that combines artistic excellence with heartfelt storytelling, The Illustrated Old Possum with Illustrations by [Illustrator's Name] is highly recommended. It's a creation that invites readers to pause, reflect, and marvel at the simple wonders of life and the natural world.

QuestionAnswer Who is the illustrator behind 'The Illustrated Old Possum'? The illustrations for

'The Illustrated Old Possum' are created by renowned artist Edward Lear. What makes 'The Illustrated Old Possum' a popular book among readers? Its charming illustrations combined with whimsical poetry make it a beloved classic that appeals to both children and adults. Are the illustrations in 'The Illustrated Old Possum' based on real animals or fantasy? The illustrations depict imaginative and fanciful representations of animals, blending realism with creative fantasy. When was 'The Illustrated Old Possum' first published? The book was first published in 1871, featuring Edward Lear's distinctive artistic style. How have the illustrations in 'The Illustrated Old Possum' influenced children's literature? They set a precedent for combining poetic storytelling with vibrant, imaginative illustrations, inspiring countless authors and illustrators. Is 'The Illustrated Old Possum' suitable for all age groups? Yes, its whimsical illustrations and playful poetry make it enjoyable for children and nostalgic for adults. Where can I find copies of 'The Illustrated Old Possum' with original illustrations? Original editions are available in rare book collections, but modern reproductions and digital versions can be found online and in bookstores.

Related keywords: old possum, illustrated book, animal illustrations, wildlife art, children's book, nature illustrations, Australian animals, illustrated story, animal artwork, picture book

possum magic preschool activities

possum magic preschool activities are a delightful way to engage young children in fun, educational, and imaginative play while fostering their cognitive, motor, and social skills. Inspired by the enchanting themes of possum magic stories, these activities are perfect for preschool classrooms, daycare centers, or at-home learning environments. Incorporating creative crafts, interactive games, storytelling, and nature exploration, possum magic preschool activities help children develop a love for nature, boost their creativity, and enhance their understanding of animals and the environment.

Understanding the Importance of Possum Magic Preschool Activities

Before diving into specific activities, it's essential to recognize why possum magic-themed activities are beneficial for preschoolers:

- **Educational Development:** These activities introduce children to wildlife, fostering awareness and respect for animals such as possums.
- **Creativity and Imagination:** Incorporating storytelling and craft projects stimulates imagination and artistic expression.
- **Motor Skills:** Hands-on activities like crafting and movement games improve fine and gross

motor skills.

- Social Skills: Group activities promote teamwork, sharing, and communication.
- Environmental Awareness: Teaching children about habitats and ecosystems nurtures environmental responsibility from an early age.

Popular Possum Magic Preschool Activities

- Storytelling and Puppet Shows

a. Reading Possum Magic Stories

Start by reading popular children's books inspired by possum magic themes, such as "Possum Magic" by Mem Fox. Use animated voices and expressive gestures to captivate young listeners.

b. Puppet Making and Puppet Shows

Create simple possum puppets using craft supplies like socks, paper bags, or felt. Encourage children to put on their own puppet shows, retelling parts of the story or inventing new adventures for their possum characters.

- Craft Activities Inspired by Possums

a. Possum Mask Making

Materials Needed:

- Cardboard or paper plates
- Paints and markers
- Glue and scissors
- Cotton balls or gray felt

Steps:

- Cut out eye holes in the cardboard or paper plate.
- Decorate the mask to resemble a possum, adding ears, nose, and tail.
- Use cotton balls or felt to create fuzzy fur effects.
- Attach a stick or elastic for wearing.

b. Creating Possum Shelters

Invite children to craft miniature possum habitats using natural materials like sticks, leaves, and bark. Discuss where possums live and their needs in the wild.

- Nature Exploration and Outdoor Activities

a. Possum Scavenger Hunt

Organize a scavenger hunt in a safe outdoor area, searching for items that resemble possum features (e.g., tree bark, leaves) or signs of possums like nests or tracks.

b. Building a Possum Den

Using natural materials, guide children to build pretend dens or nests, learning about possum habitats and behaviors.

- Movement and Music Activities

a. Possum Movement Game

Create a game where children imitate possum movements:

- Climbing (using climbing structures or pretend)
- Scurrying (quick, small steps)
- Playing possum (playing dead)

b. Possum-themed Songs and Rhymes

Teach children catchy songs about possums and their environment, encouraging singing and movement.

- Sensory Play and Experiments

a. Touch and Feel Bags

Fill cloth bags with objects like fur, leaves, or small animal figures to help children explore textures

related to possum habitats.

b. Food Chain Experiments

Set up simple experiments demonstrating how possums fit into the food chain, using toy animals and pretend food.

Integrating Possum Magic Activities into Curriculum

Incorporating possum magic activities into a preschool curriculum can be both fun and educational. Here are some tips:

- Thematic Week: Dedicate a week to possums, combining stories, crafts, outdoor exploration, and discussions.
- Cross-disciplinary Approach: Link activities to other areas such as art, science, literacy, and physical education.
- Guest Speakers: Invite wildlife experts or local naturalists to share knowledge about possums and their environment.
- Environmental Projects: Encourage children to participate in local conservation efforts or habitat restoration projects.

Tips for Success with Possum Magic Preschool Activities

- Use Visual Aids: Pictures, videos, and real animal artifacts help children relate to the activities.
- Encourage Creativity: Allow children to add their ideas and personal touches to crafts and stories.
- Promote Safety: When doing outdoor or craft activities, supervise children closely to ensure safety.
- Make It Fun: Keep activities lively and playful to foster a love for learning.

Resources for Possum Magic Activities

- Books: "Possum Magic" by Mem Fox, "The Little Possum" by Alison Lester
- Craft Supplies: Recyclable materials, paints, felt, cotton balls
- Nature Guides: Local wildlife and habitat guides suitable for children
- Online Videos: Educational videos about possums and Australian wildlife

Conclusion

Possum magic preschool activities offer a fantastic way to introduce young children to the wonders of nature while nurturing their curiosity and creativity. Through storytelling, crafts, outdoor exploration, and movement games, children develop a deeper understanding of possums and their habitats, fostering environmental stewardship from an early age. By integrating these fun and educational activities into your preschool program, you can create memorable learning experiences that inspire a lifelong appreciation for wildlife and nature.

Remember: The key to successful possum magic preschool activities is to keep them engaging, age-appropriate, and aligned with developmental goals. With a little imagination and planning, you can turn learning about possums into an exciting adventure for every preschooler!

Possum Magic Preschool Activities: An In-Depth Exploration of Themed Learning and Developmental Engagements

In the realm of early childhood education, themed activities serve as a vital tool to foster curiosity, develop foundational skills, and promote social-emotional growth. Among these themes, Possum Magic Preschool Activities have gained notable attention for their engaging, culturally rich, and developmentally appropriate approaches. Inspired by the beloved Australian children's book Possum Magic by Mem Fox, these activities integrate storytelling, arts and crafts, music, and sensory experiences, creating a holistic learning environment. This comprehensive review investigates the origins, design, implementation, benefits, and challenges of Possum Magic-themed activities in preschool settings.

Understanding the Concept of Possum Magic in Preschool Settings

The Cultural and Educational Significance

Possum Magic, a classic Australian children's book, narrates the adventures of Hush and her grandmother, Grandma Poss, as they explore Australian wildlife and culture. Its vivid illustrations and engaging storytelling make it an ideal thematic basis for preschool activities. The theme offers a window into Australia's unique fauna and cultural heritage, making learning both fun and educational.

In preschool contexts, Possum Magic activities aim to:

- Introduce children to Australian animals and ecosystems.
- Foster environmental awareness and conservation sentiments.
- Enhance language development through storytelling and vocabulary building.
- Cultivate creativity via arts and crafts.
- Promote social skills through collaborative projects.

Furthermore, integrating this theme aligns with early learning frameworks emphasizing cultural literacy, ecological responsibility, and holistic development.

Designing Possum Magic Preschool Activities

Core Components and Principles

Designing effective Possum Magic activities requires a thoughtful approach that ensures developmental appropriateness and cultural relevance. Key principles include:

- Interactivity: Activities should encourage active participation.
- Multisensory Engagement: Incorporate visual, auditory, tactile, and kinesthetic elements.
- Integration Across Domains: Link activities to literacy, numeracy, social skills, and physical development.
- Inclusivity: Cater to diverse learning needs and backgrounds.
- Narrative Focus: Use storytelling as an anchor to connect activities.

Sample Activities and Their Objectives

Activity	Objectives	Materials Needed	Estimated Duration
Possum Craft Collage	Develop fine motor skills, understanding of possum features	Paper, cotton balls, googly eyes, glue, markers	30 minutes
Australian Animal Sound Game	Enhance auditory discrimination, memory	Audio recordings, pictures of animals	20 minutes
Storytelling Circle: 'Hush and Grandma Poss'	Language development, social interaction	Book Possum Magic, cushions	30 minutes
Night Sky Sensory Bin	Sensory exploration, understanding nocturnal animals	Black rice, star-shaped cutouts, small animal figures	20 minutes
Possum Puppet Making	Creativity, fine motor skills, storytelling	Socks, felt, googly eyes, glue, yarn	45 minutes

These activities exemplify how themes can be woven into the daily preschool curriculum, fostering a multi-layered learning experience.

Implementation Strategies for Possum Magic Activities

Curriculum Integration

Successful implementation involves aligning Possum Magic activities with existing early childhood curricula, such as the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) or similar standards. This includes:

- Embedding thematic literacy components (e.g., vocabulary related to possums and Australian fauna).
- Incorporating science concepts about animals and habitats.
- Embedding art and music to nurture creativity.
- Planning outdoor activities like nature walks to observe local wildlife, reinforcing the theme.

Preparation and Environment Setup

Preparation is key to smooth execution:

- Materials Gathering: Ensure all craft supplies, visual aids, and sensory materials are ready.
- Space Arrangement: Create dedicated areas for storytelling, arts and crafts, and sensory play.
- Staff Training: Educators should be familiar with the story's cultural context and activity objectives to facilitate meaningful engagement.
- Cultural Sensitivity: Incorporate authentic cultural elements respectfully, possibly inviting Indigenous community members or educators to share insights.

Engaging Children Effectively

Active engagement can be fostered through:

- Storytelling with expressive voices and gestures.
- Encouraging children to share personal experiences related to animals or nature.
- Using open-ended questions to stimulate thinking.
- Allowing children to lead parts of activities or storytelling.

Developmental Benefits of Possum Magic Preschool Activities

Cognitive Development

Activities centered around Possum Magic support cognitive skills such as:

- Vocabulary expansion ("possum," "nocturnal," "Australian bush").
- Sequencing and story comprehension.
- Critical thinking through problem-solving crafts and games.

Language and Literacy

The stories and related activities promote:

- Narrative skills.
- Listening comprehension.
- Early reading skills through shared reading and retelling.

Fine and Gross Motor Skills

Arts and crafts, puppet making, and sensory play help develop dexterity and coordination.

Social and Emotional Skills

Group activities foster:

- Cooperation and sharing.
- Empathy towards animals and nature.
- Confidence in expressing ideas and creativity.

Cultural Awareness and Environmental Responsibility

Children gain appreciation for Australian wildlife and cultural stories, fostering early environmental stewardship.

Challenges and Considerations

While Possum Magic activities offer numerous benefits, several challenges may arise:

- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Ensuring respectful and accurate representation of Indigenous Australian cultures is paramount. Collaborating with Indigenous communities can mitigate cultural misappropriation.
- **Resource Availability:** Access to authentic materials, visuals, and storytelling resources may be limited in some settings.

- Age Appropriateness: Activities must be tailored to developmental stages; overly complex crafts can frustrate younger children.
- Inclusivity: Accommodate children with diverse learning needs, including sensory sensitivities or physical disabilities.
- Curriculum Balance: Integrate the theme without overshadowing other learning areas or overloading the schedule.

Evaluating the Effectiveness of Possum Magic Activities

Assessment strategies include:

- Observations of children's participation and enthusiasm.
- Documentation of children's work and retelling abilities.
- Informal conversations with children about what they learned.
- Feedback from educators and parents regarding skill development and engagement.
- Reflection on cultural appropriateness and inclusivity.

Effective evaluation ensures that activities meet developmental goals and cultural sensitivities, guiding future planning.

Conclusion: The Value and Future of Possum Magic Preschool Activities

Possum Magic preschool activities serve as a compelling example of thematic, culturally rich early childhood education. When thoughtfully designed and implemented, they promote a wide spectrum of developmental skills while fostering cultural awareness and environmental consciousness. The integration of storytelling, arts, sensory play, and outdoor exploration creates a dynamic learning environment that resonates with young children's natural curiosity.

As early childhood education continues to evolve toward more inclusive and experiential learning models, Possum Magic activities exemplify how cultural stories can be leveraged to enrich curriculum, build community connections, and nurture compassionate, environmentally aware future citizens. Moving forward, educators should prioritize authentic cultural engagement, resource accessibility, and adaptability to ensure these activities remain meaningful and impactful for diverse preschool populations.

In sum, Possum Magic preschool activities not only entertain and educate but also serve as a bridge connecting children to the natural world, cultural heritage, and the joy of discovery—a truly valuable addition to the early childhood curriculum toolkit.

QuestionAnswer What are some fun possum magic preschool activities to introduce children to Australian wildlife? Activities such as storytelling with 'Possum Magic,' craft projects making possum masks, and sing-alongs of Australian animal songs help children connect with the story and learn about native wildlife. How can I incorporate storytelling from 'Possum Magic' into preschool activities? Read the story aloud, then engage children in role-playing, creating props or puppets of characters, and discussing the animals and places featured to deepen understanding and engagement. What craft ideas are suitable for preschoolers based on 'Possum Magic'? Simple crafts like making paper plate possums, decorating Australian animal masks, or creating colorful bushland dioramas allow preschoolers to express creativity and learn about the setting. Are there any educational games inspired by 'Possum Magic' for preschoolers? Yes, games like 'Australian Animal Bingo,' 'Hide the Possum,' and matching animal cards can be both fun and educational, teaching children about native animals and their habitats. How can I adapt 'Possum Magic' activities for outdoor preschool settings? Organize nature walks to explore local flora and fauna, set up scavenger hunts for native plants and animals, and create outdoor art stations inspired by the story's bushland setting. What songs or music activities can complement 'Possum Magic' preschool lessons? Sing Australian animal songs or create a song about the possum's adventures, encouraging children to sing along, dance, and engage with the story through music. How can I use 'Possum Magic' to teach preschoolers about Australian culture and environment? Integrate activities that explore Aboriginal art, stories about native animals, and environmental conservation lessons inspired by the story's setting and themes. Are there any digital resources or interactive tools for 'Possum Magic' preschool activities? Yes, interactive storybooks, educational videos, and online games related to 'Possum Magic' are available to enhance learning and engagement for preschoolers. What safety considerations should I keep in mind during 'Possum Magic' preschool activities? Ensure all craft materials are non-toxic, supervise outdoor activities to prevent accidents, and tailor activities to suit the children's developmental levels for a safe and enjoyable experience.

Related keywords: possum magic, preschool activities, educational crafts, storytelling ideas, preschool games, early childhood learning, themed activities, nature crafts, sensory activities, preschool worksheets

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