

KNOWLEDGE BUILDERS

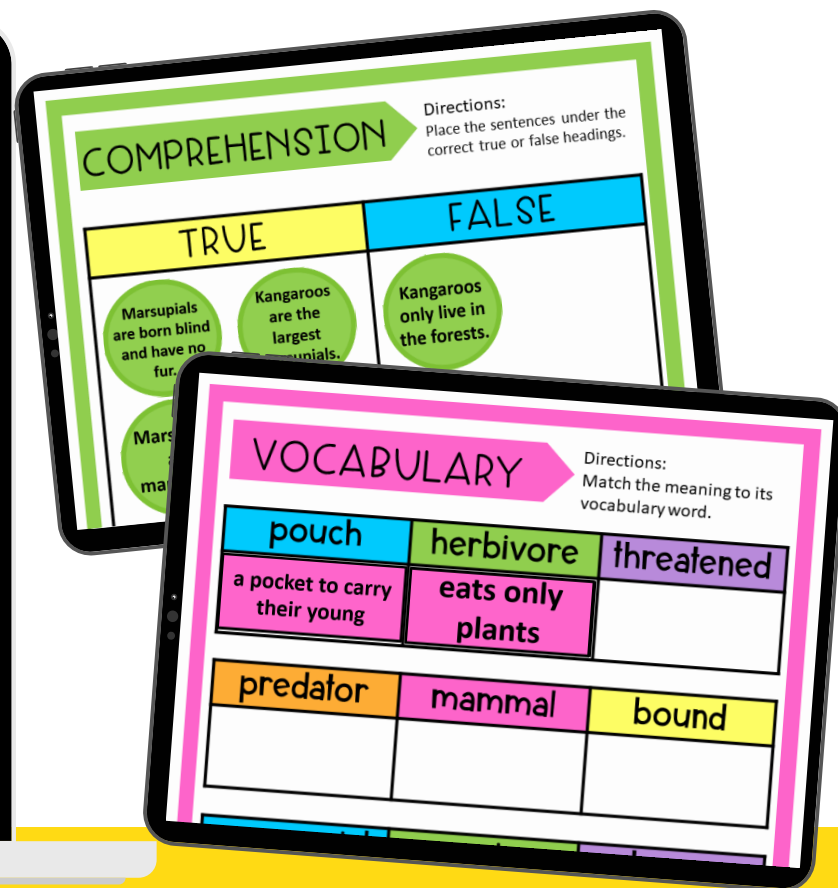


KANGAROOS

Kangaroos can be found in Australia and New Guinea. Some kangaroos live in the woodlands, and some in forests or rainforests, depending upon their species. They are social animals and live in groups called troops or as Australians call them, mobs. Kangaroo groups usually have from 3 -50 members.

Kangaroos are the world's largest marsupials. This means that female kangaroos have a pouch for their young kangaroos, called joeys. Adult kangaroos are five to six feet tall and weigh between 50 – 120 pounds. They have small front legs, powerful hind legs and huge feet. They also have a long tail which helps them balance.

**4TH GRADE
NONFICTION**



COMPREHENSION

Directions: Place the sentences under the correct true or false headings.

TRUE	FALSE
Marsupials are born blind and have no fur.	Kangaroos are the largest marsupials.
	Kangaroos only live in the forests.

VOCABULARY

Directions: Match the meaning to its vocabulary word.

pouch	herbivore	threatened
a pocket to carry their young	eats only plants	
predator	mammal	bound

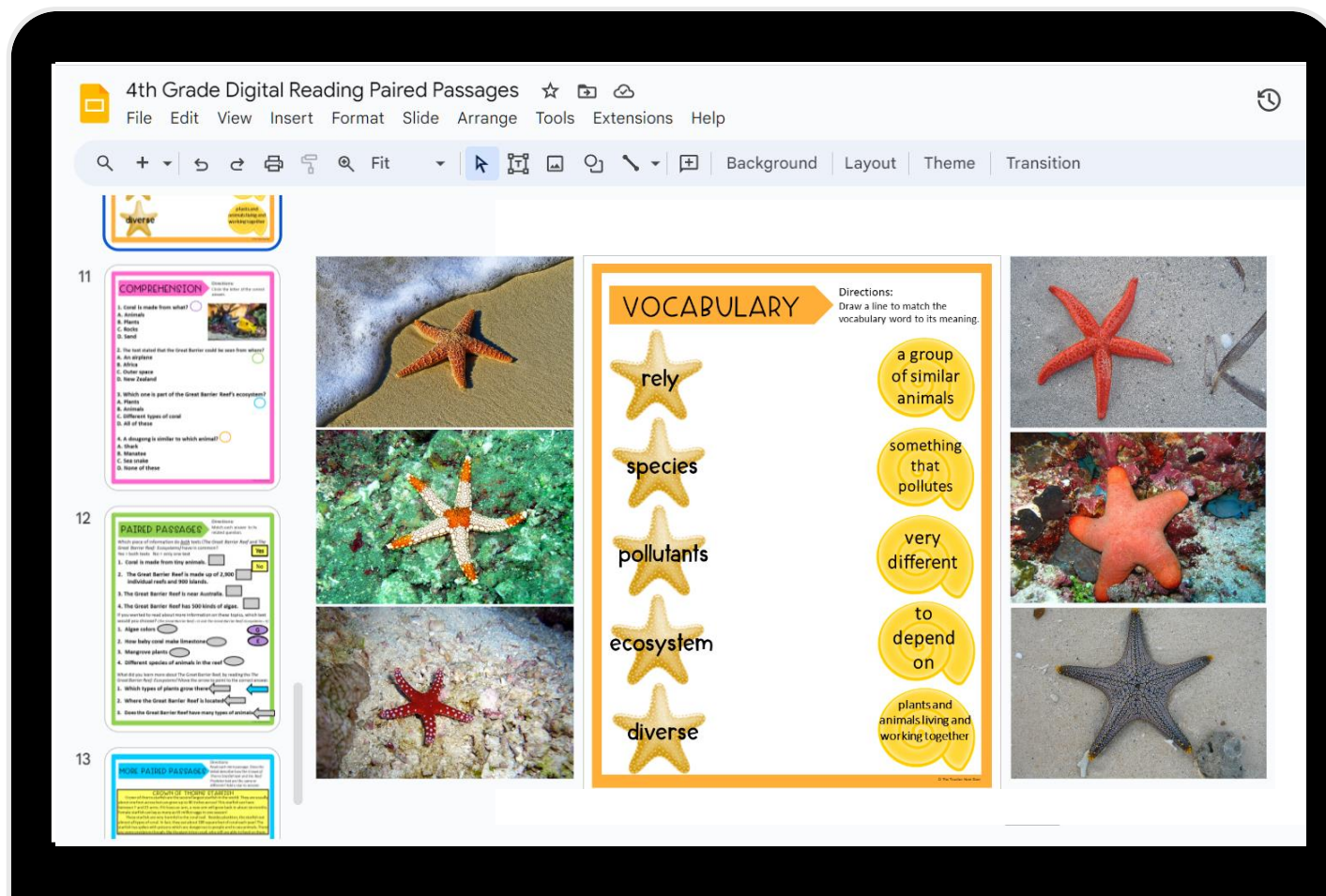
PAIRED PASSAGES

THE TEACHER NEXT DOOR

DIGITAL FORMAT

DRAG AND DROP – INTERACTIVE
NO-PREP, EASY TO ASSIGN

JUST CLICK AND SEND! 



The screenshot shows a Google Slides presentation titled "4th Grade Digital Reading Paired Passages". The interface includes a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Insert, Format, Slide, Arrange, Tools, Extensions, Help) and a toolbar with various editing tools. The presentation content is organized into three numbered slides:

- Slide 11: COMPREHENSION** - Features a list of five multiple-choice questions about the Great Barrier Reef. The questions cover topics like coral types, reef locations, and the impact of climate change. A small image of a starfish is visible.
- Slide 12: PAIRED PASSAGES** - Contains two short passages about the Great Barrier Reef. The first passage describes the reef's location and size, while the second discusses the threats it faces from climate change. A small image of a starfish is visible.
- Slide 13: VOCABULARY** - Features a list of five vocabulary words: rely, species, pollutants, ecosystem, and diverse. To the right of the words is a "Directions" box that says "Draw a line to match the vocabulary word to its meaning." Below the directions are five yellow speech bubbles containing definitions: "a group of similar animals", "something that pollutes", "very different", "to depend on", and "plants and animals living and working together".

Three images of starfish are also visible on the right side of the presentation, each corresponding to one of the vocabulary words.



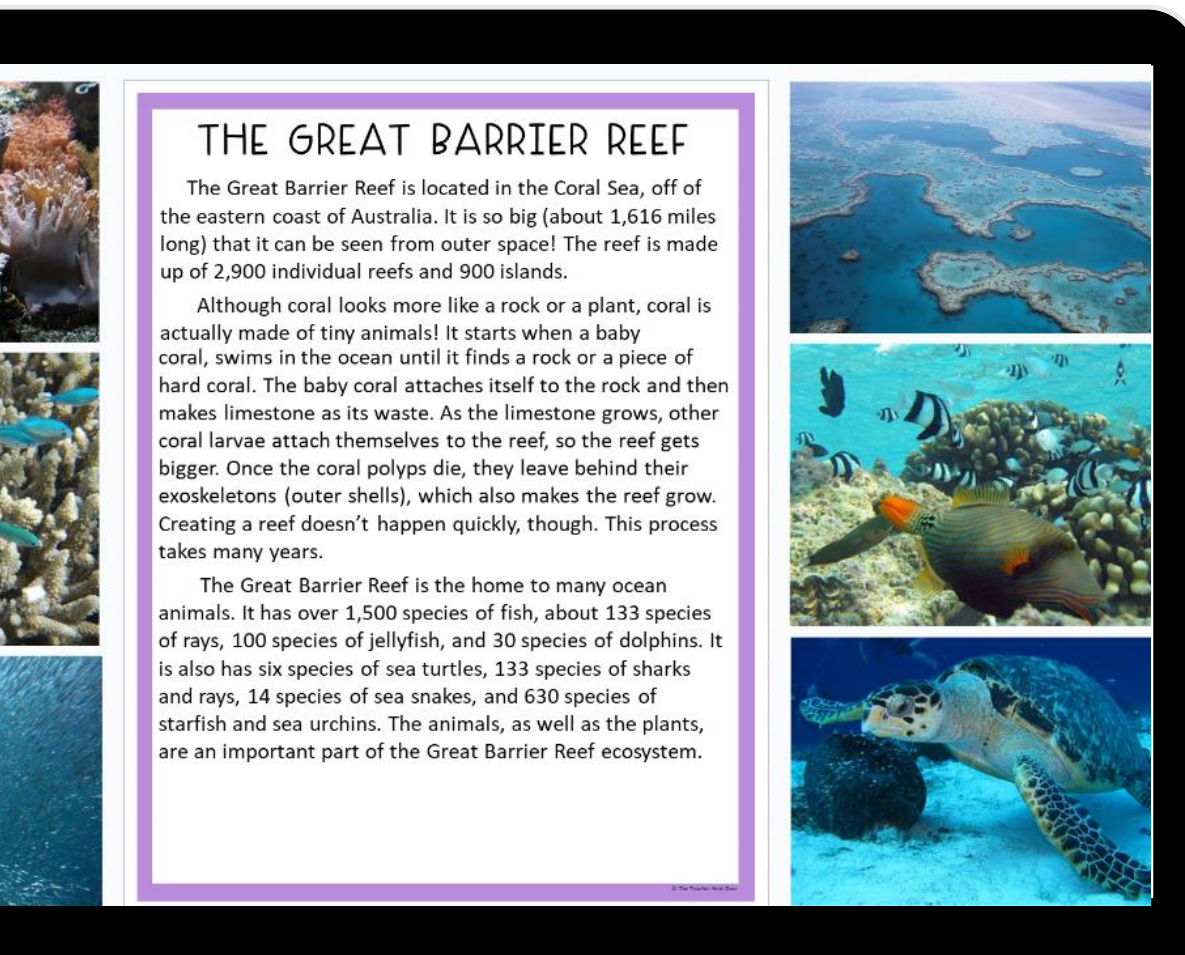
THE TEACHER NEXT DOOR

TWO PASSAGES

READING SKILL FOCUSED

HIGH-INTEREST STORIES

THAT KEEP STUDENTS ENGAGED!



THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

The Great Barrier Reef is located in the Coral Sea, off of the eastern coast of Australia. It is so big (about 1,616 miles long) that it can be seen from outer space! The reef is made up of 2,900 individual reefs and 900 islands.

Although coral looks more like a rock or a plant, coral is actually made of tiny animals! It starts when a baby coral, swims in the ocean until it finds a rock or a piece of hard coral. The baby coral attaches itself to the rock and then makes limestone as its waste. As the limestone grows, other coral larvae attach themselves to the reef, so the reef gets bigger. Once the coral polyps die, they leave behind their exoskeletons (outer shells), which also makes the reef grow. Creating a reef doesn't happen quickly, though. This process takes many years.

The Great Barrier Reef is the home to many ocean animals. It has over 1,500 species of fish, about 133 species of rays, 100 species of jellyfish, and 30 species of dolphins. It is also has six species of sea turtles, 133 species of sharks and rays, 14 species of sea snakes, and 630 species of starfish and sea urchins. The animals, as well as the plants, are an important part of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem.

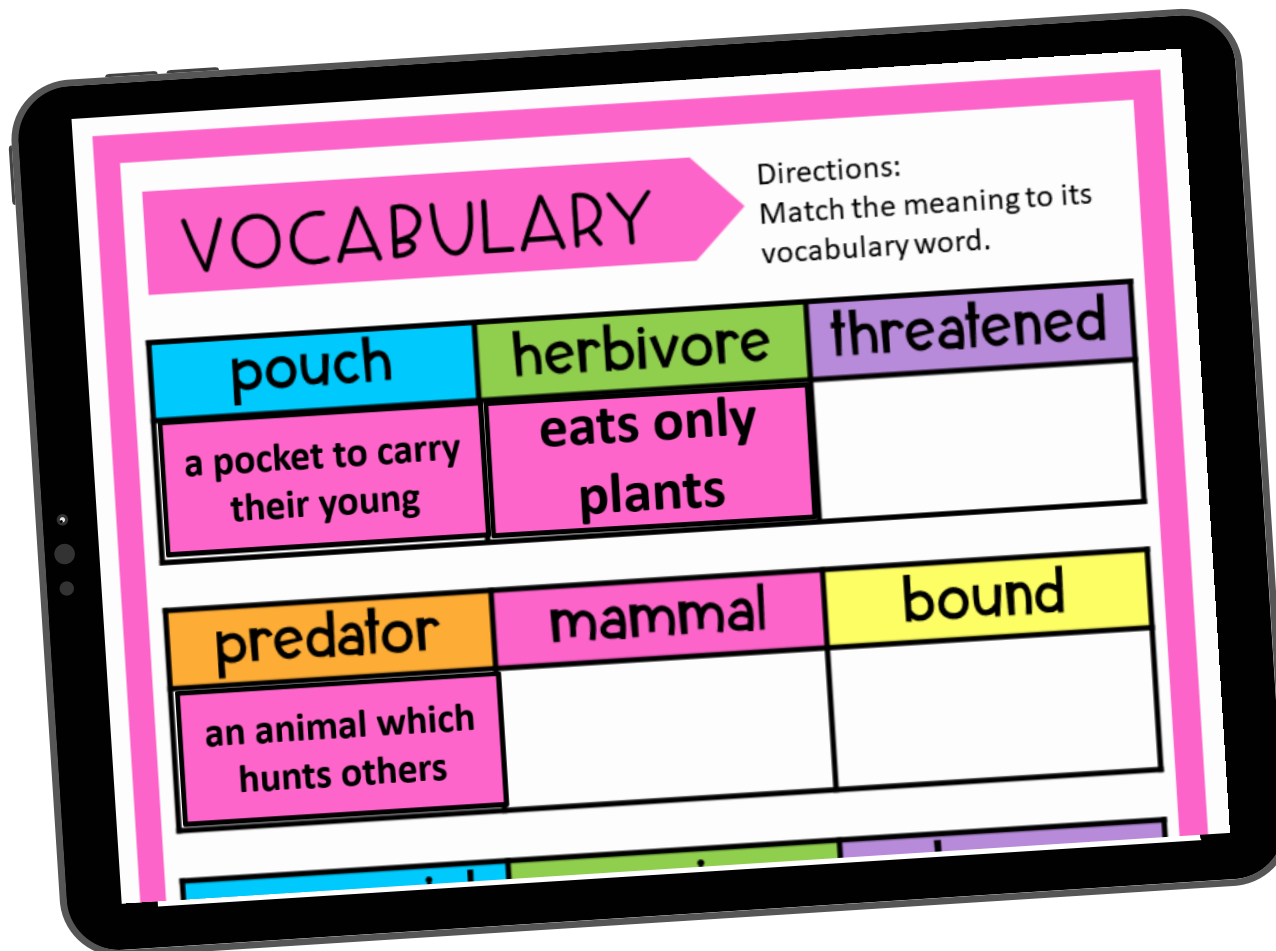
USE FOR
CENTERS OR
INDEPENDENT
WORK



THE TEACHER NEXT DOOR

VOCABULARY

TARGET WORDS IN CONTEXT FROM THE PASSAGE WITH INTERACTIVE PRACTICE!



VOCABULARY

Directions: Match the meaning to its vocabulary word.

pouch a pocket to carry their young	herbivore eats only plants	threatened
predator an animal which hunts others	mammal 	bound

jump

a warm blooded
animal with fur,
mothers give milk

very large



COMPREHENSION

STUDENTS PRACTICE
DIGGING INTO THE TEXT
TO SHOW UNDERSTANDING!

COMPREHENSION

Directions: Place the sentences under the correct true or false headings.

TRUE	FALSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Marsupials are born blind and have no fur.Marsupials are mammals.Kangaroos are the largest marsupials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kangaroos only live in the forests.A kangaroo baby is called a Billy.

All marsupials have a pouch in front.

Kangaroos are the only marsupials.

Kangaroos live in groups.



SKILLS FOCUSED

REINFORCE

THE READING SKILL

USING A VARIETY OF APPROACHES!

MORE PAIRED PASSAGES



CROWN OF THORNS STARFISH

Crown of thorns starfish are the second largest starfish in the world. They are usually about one foot across but can grow up to 40 inches across! This starfish can have between 7 and 23 arms. If it loses an arm, a new arm will grow back in about six months. Female starfish can lay as many as 65 million eggs in one season!

These starfish are very harmful to the coral reef. Besides plankton, the starfish eat almost all types of coral. In fact, they eat about 108 square feet of coral each year! The starfish has spikes with poisons which are dangerous to people and to sea animals. There are some predators though, like the giant triton snail, who still are able to feed on them.

REEF PREDATOR

The Great Coral Reef faces many challenges including overfishing, water pollution, and coastal development. For the past forty years, one of the predators which also has caused terrible damage to the reef is the crown of thorns starfish. This starfish eats large amounts of coral. In fact, these starfish, along with tropical cyclones, have been the two biggest causes of coral loss to the reefs. When chemicals from farm crops are

Directions:

Read each mini-passage. Does the detail describe how the *Crown of Thorns Starfish* text and the *Reef Predator* text are the same or different? Add a star to answer.



ASK THE EXPERTS

**"GREAT AT STRENGTHENING SKILLS
NEEDED TO READ AND COMPREHEND
PAIRED TEXTS SUCCESSFULLY!"**

– SHANDA, 4TH GRADE TEACHER

**"SUPER ENGAGING, AND
EXACTLY WHAT I
NEEDED!"**

– DESTANNI, 4TH GRADE TEACHER

**"STUDENTS FOUND READING TOPICS
INTERESTING AND INTERACTIVE
ACTIVITIES ENGAGING!"**

– SUZANNE, 4TH GRADE TEACHER

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KNOWLEDGE BUILDERS FAQ

Which classrooms would benefit from a Digital Reading Paired Passages Unit like this?

This set of Paired Texts using nonfiction Knowledge Builders is for you **if your reading curriculum is lacking** when it comes to focused reading skills practice or your students could benefit from more content knowledge. If you'd like to **stop endlessly searching for high-interest reading activities** that align with this reading standard and are looking for **easy-to-use** reading activities, this resource is for you.

What age is best suited for this Knowledge Builder?

This digital reading unit is **aligned to 4th grade reading standards**. It can also be used with **older students in need of extra practice** and support or for **enrichment for younger students**. Teachers, homeschool educators, and tutors have used the materials successfully.

How can this resource be used in my classroom?

This resource is **extremely versatile**. Many teachers will use the knowledge builder as part of their weekly literacy stations. You can also use the digital unit for independent work, partner practice, test prep, and for whole-class lessons. Our **best recommendation is to use them for independent or partner work while you meet with small groups to differentiate**.

WHO IS TTND?

At **The Teacher Next Door**, we know that you strive to be an effective reading teacher while maintaining a healthy work-life balance. In order to do that, you need resources that are impactful yet simple. The problem is that most reading resources and curriculums out there are far from simple. The pages upon pages of daily lesson plans are just plain overwhelming. We believe teachers should be living their lives outside the classroom and not spending hours lesson planning and searching for resources.

Now, more than ever, teachers need space to be themselves, which is why we create and support teachers with time-saving tips and standards-aligned resources.

We can't wait to help you get started.

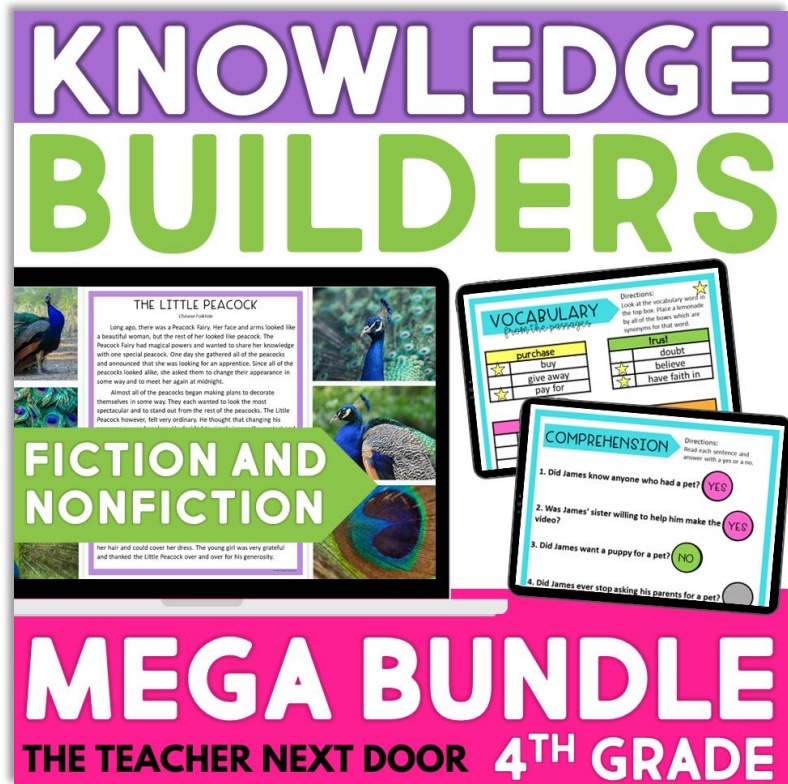
A NOTE ABOUT OUR CEO AND FOUNDER: Jenn Larson is the creator and founder of The Teacher Next Door. With over 20 years of experience in the classroom and a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, Jenn specializes in creating resources for upper elementary students. Her goal is to support teachers by providing ready-to-use resources that target standards and help students grow in amazing ways.

REACH OUT AT: contact@the-teacher-next-door.com



**THE TEACHER
NEXT DOOR**

TAKE BACK YOUR TEACHER TIME!



BUY NOW



NO MORE HOURS OF LESSON PLANNING!
YOUR FUTURE TEACHER-SELF WILL
THANK YOU, YEAR AFTER YEAR.

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