

Drawing science

Children learn by observing, and adults should encourage it

By KATHY HOCKER

Observation is fundamental to science. In fact, one could even argue that science is observation, nourished and channeled for the purpose of better understanding what our world is and how it works. Observations inspire science investigations, shape experimentation, support or disprove hypotheses, frame conclusions. As STEM educators, and as parents and mentors, it's important to encourage, model and teach observation skills.

It's not a difficult task ... the spark is already there! Kids delight in observation and discovery (as anyone knows who has visited a stream, a forest trail, or a garden with a young friend). They're natural seekers and investigators: peering under rocks, touching leaves and spiderwebs, testing the aerodynamics of winged seeds. The process of science captures those sparks of delight and attention and allows them to become flame.

One bedrock tool of the science/observation process is the science notebook — a place to record observations, ideas and questions. And one key element in a notebook — especially in the natural sciences — is drawing.

This is sometimes called "field sketching" (though it doesn't have to be done outdoors).

Field sketching is a powerful way to practice observation skills. The process of drawing from observation deepens the observation process itself, allowing us to engage our whole minds as we draw the subject of our study through eyes and mind and onto the page. Drawings are a form of data: in fact, they often capture information that can't easily be described in words. We can go back to journal sketches and notes to remind ourselves of previous observations, and build on them. Journal entries can also help us communicate more clearly about our observations.

Beginning your field sketching practice starts by establishing field journals. Make sure each child has her/his own book ... and that you do as well! Some people like to make their own journals — easy to do with loose-leaf plain paper, heavy paper for the cover, and a stapler or needle and thread for the binding. Paper type is a personal preference; slightly heavier drawing paper will hold up better to raindrops and backpacks. Some like to use waterproof paper; just be aware that it does tend to smudge more easily



STEM CORNER

Students draw during a beach field trip. For an activity to share with your kids, see the bottom of Page A4.

KATHY HOCKER | COURTESY PHOTO

than regular paper. If you choose to use a commercial sketchbook, I recommend a hard back and spiral binding, so that it can lie flat.

Although you can incorporate pen, colored pencils and even water media in field journals, all you really need in your starter kit is a pencil — mechanical or regular with a hand-held sharpener. Add a magnifying glass and a binder clip for holding pages open on windy days, tuck the lot into a large reclosable plastic bag, and you have a field sketch kit ready.

You and your student may want to draw as a way to explore a particular subject, such as bivalves, trees or birds — or to record repeated observations from a place such as a backyard or a favorite beach. Or you may want to just let curiosity lead the way. Whatever your approach, here are some tips to get started:

- When you find your subject, try to take at least

10 or 15 minutes to study it before you even set pencil to paper. This will allow the subject at hand to displace any inaccurate pictures you might carry in your brain.

- When drawing with a student, talk together about what you see and how you plan to draw it. What shapes, lines and textures do you see? What part will you draw first? How big will you draw it?

- As you draw, take breaks to stretch, step back, and just observe for a while.

- If you're frustrated with a drawing, stop for a while and observe it. Compare it to the subject. Look for parts that you want to keep and parts that you want to change. Make a plan for how you can change them to make your sketch more true to life.

- Before you move on to another subject or drawing, look again — what other details can you add?

- It's OK to start over again! Each time you draw

something, you not only get better at drawing it, you understand it better.

Notes are an essential part of a field journal. They express things about your experience that you can't include in a drawing, or that you don't have time or skills to capture completely. At the very minimum, label each journal page with your name or initials (the observer), the date, and the subject or subjects. Beyond that, think of field journal notes in three categories: observations, inferences, and questions. Put another way: what did you see/hear/feel/smell? What do you infer about your subject? What do you wonder about your subject?

Below are some field sketching activity suggestions to get you started. For more inspiration and ideas, try a Google image search for "field sketching" or "nature drawing." Check out the outstanding internet resources at <https://johnmuirlaws.com> and [\[ketchers.blogspot.com\]\(http://ketchers.blogspot.com\). There are many more.](http://natures-</p>
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And finally: after you and your student have spent time drawing and writing in your field journals, take some time to share your observations. Ask your student to show you her or his drawings and notes, or if s/he wants to keep those pages private, ask for a verbal description of what s/he observed, thought and wondered. What are some questions that could be investigated through further observations or experiments? Every once in a while, page back to journal entries from weeks, months, or years ago. What have you learned since then? How has your drawing style changed?

• Kathy Hocker is an artist, author and illustrator who works with students as an artist-in-residence in Juneau and throughout Southeast. She lives in Gustavus. STEM Corner is a monthly column about Science Technology Engineering and Math in Juneau, written by a rotating group of Juneau STEM Coalition members.

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF

— Wire Reports —

Company tries to launch from Kodiak again

KODIAK — A commercial spaceflight company is preparing for its third attempt to launch from the Kodiak spaceport.

If successful, it would be the first commercial launch from the spaceport at Narrow Cape, the Kodiak Daily Mirror reported Friday. State-owned Alaska Aerospace Corp., which helps facilitate launches, would not name the company, citing a non-disclosure agreement, but said it would try to take off between July 14 and 20.

Two launch attempts by the company over the last three months have been postponed.

"We've tried twice to get their flight off," Barry King, Alaska Aerospace

Corp. director of range operations, said during a board meeting Thursday. "Both times, they've run into some issues."

A launch attempt April 6 was scratched over unnamed technical issues, spaceport employees said. Another postponement happened May 11.

Another company, Vector Launch Inc., also has plans to test its vehicle. A company Twitter post last week shows a picture of its Vector-R rocket, which is designed for transporting small satellites into orbit, parked in the spaceport's clean room for preparing vehicles.

TODAY'S



Extra-Tuff Bingo Contest Rules: juneauempire.com/bingo

FEELIN' LUCKY?

EXTRA-TUFF BINGO

JULY BINGO GAME BEGINS SUNDAY, JULY 1ST

Check that Friday's newspaper for a Bingo Card.

Rules and prizes online:

JUNEAUEMPIRE.COM/BINGO



Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Southcoast Region

NOTICE OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE & REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

Juneau Riverside / Stephen Richards
Congestion Mitigation Project SFHWY-00081 / 0003207

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) invites you to a public open house to learn about the Juneau Riverside / Stephen Richards Congestion Mitigation Project

When: Wednesday, July 11, 2018
Where: Mendenhall Valley Public Library
3025 Riverside Drive, Juneau, AK 99801
Time: 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Project team members will be on hand to explain design concepts, answer questions, and listen to comments.

For more project information including proposed intersection concepts, visit our webpage at http://dot.alaska.gov/sereg/projects/jnu_riverside_stephen_richards/index.shtml

About the Project

DOT&PF proposes a project to reduce traffic congestion at the intersection of Stephen Richards and Riverside Drive in Mendenhall Valley. Traffic congestion at the four-way stop intersection creates delays and emissions in an air quality maintenance area – the Mendenhall Valley.

DOT&PF is evaluating intersection concepts to reduce congestion and limit resultant traffic delays and emissions.

Design concepts for the proposed project may include a roundabout or enhanced traffic signals; although, other intersection layouts may develop through agency comments, stakeholder feedback, and public input.

Construction is projected for as early as 2020

DOT&PF is soliciting comments and information on the proposed project. Your comments would help us in the selection of a preferred concept as well as evaluate potential environmental, social and economic impacts of this project as well as impacts to historic and cultural resources.

Please submit your written comments to:

Megan Daniels, Environmental Impact Analyst
DOT&PF, Southcoast Region Phone: 907-465-2156
P.O. Box 112506 FAX: 907-465-8485
Juneau, AK 99811-2506 E-mail: megan.daniels@alaska.gov

To ensure that all possible factors are considered, please provide comments at the public meeting or via email or fax, or mailing address by close of business day July 27, 2018.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by DOT&PF pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated November 3, 2017 and executed by FHWA and DOT&PF.

Development of this proposed project would follow a process required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Based on project location and scope of work, the environmental document is anticipated to be a categorical exclusion (CE). Possible affected resources include wetlands, waters of the U.S., eagles, and cultural or historic properties.

The proposed project would comply with all applicable authorities including:

- National Historic Preservation Act Section 106
- EO-13175 (Consult & Coordinate w/ Ind Tribal Gov)
- EO-11593 (Protect & Enhance Cultural Env.)
- EO-13007 (Indian Sacred Sites)
- EO-11988 (Manage Floodplains)
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It is the policy of the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) that no person shall be excluded from participation in, or be denied benefits of any and all programs or activities we provide based on race, religion, color, gender, age, marital status, ability, or national origin, regardless of the funding source including Federal Transit Administration, Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Highway Administration and State of Alaska Funds. The DOT&PF complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

If you or someone you represent requires special accommodations in order to respond to this public notice, please call or email the project coordinator listed above or call Alaska Relay at 711 or call

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Seattle bans plastic straws, utensils at restaurants, bars

By PHUONG LE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE — Looking for a plastic straw to sip your soda? It's no longer allowed in Seattle bars and restaurants.

Neither are plastic utensils in the latest push to reduce waste and prevent marine plastic pollution. Businesses that sell food or drinks won't be allowed to offer the plastic items under a rule that went into effect Sunday.

Seattle is believed to be the first major U.S. city to ban single-use plastic straws and utensils in food service, according to Seattle Public Utilities. The eco-conscious city has been an environmental leader in the U.S., working to aggressively curb the amount of trash that goes into landfills by requiring more options that can be recycled or composted.

Seattle's 5,000 restaurants will now have to use reusable or compostable utensils, straws and cocktail picks, though the city is encouraging businesses

to consider not providing straws altogether or switch to paper rather than compostable plastic straws.

"Plastic pollution is surpassing crisis levels in the world's oceans, and I'm proud Seattle is leading the way and setting an example for the nation by enacting a plastic straw ban," Seattle Public Utilities General Manager Mami Hara said in a statement last month.

Proposals to ban plastic straws are being considered in other cities, including New York and San Francisco.

California's Legislature is considering statewide restrictions, but not an outright ban, on single-use plastic straws. It would block restaurants from providing straws as a default but would still allow a customer to request one. It's passed the state Assembly and now awaits action in the Senate.

In the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Theresa May announced in April a plan to ban the sale of plastic straws, drink stir-

ners and plastic-stemmed cotton buds. She called plastic waste "one of the greatest environmental challenges facing the world."

Smaller cities in California, including Malibu and San Luis Obispo, have restricted the use of plastic straws. San Luis Obispo requires single-use straws only be provided in restaurants, bars and cafes when customers ask for them. City officials said most customers will say "no" if asked if they want a straw.

Business groups have opposed the idea in Hawaii, where legislation to ban plastic straws died this year, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported Sunday, with the Hawaii Restaurant Association and Hawaii Food Industry Association testifying against the measure.

Seattle's ban is part of a 2008 ordinance that requires restaurants and other food-service businesses to find recyclable or compostable alternatives to disposable containers, cups, straws,



GREG GILBERT | THE SEATTLE TIMES

Paper straws are seen in front of Duke Moscrip, owner of Duke's, at his restaurant on June 19 in Seattle. Businesses that sell food or drinks won't be allowed to offer the plastic items under a rule that went into effect Sunday.

utensils and other products.

Businesses had time to work toward complying with the ban, said Jillian Henze, a spokeswoman for the Seattle Restaurant Alliance, an industry trade group.

"We've almost had a year to seek out products to protect the environment and give customers a good experience (with alternatives)," she said.

The city had allowed exemptions for some products until alternatives could be found. With multiple manufacturers offering alternatives, the city let the exemption for

plastic utensils and straws run out over the weekend.

Environmental advocates have been pushing for restaurants and other businesses to ditch single-use straws, saying they can't be recycled and end up in the ocean, polluting the water and harming sea life.

A "Strawless in Seattle" campaign last fall by the Lonely Whale involving more than 100 businesses voluntarily helped remove 2.3 million single-use plastic straws.

Supporters say it will take more than banning plastic straws to curb ocean pollution but that

ditching them is a good first step and a way to start a conversation about waste and ocean conservation.

Seattle urged businesses to use up their existing inventory of plastic utensils and straws before Sunday. Those who weren't able to use up their supply have been told to work with the city on a compliance schedule.

Businesses that don't comply may face a fine of up to \$250, but city officials say they will work with businesses to make the changes.

Washington voters likely to take up carbon fee initiative

By PHUONG LE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE — Washington voters will likely decide in November whether to charge industrial emitters a fee for

their carbon pollution.

A broad, diverse coalition of tribes, community, labor and environmental groups say they've gathered enough signatures to put a carbon fee on the statewide ballot — two

years after voters rejected a carbon tax that would have been the first in the nation.

The fee starts at \$15 per metric ton in 2020 and steadily increases until the state reaches its car-


bon reductions goal.

Sponsors of Initiative 1631 say it will hold corporate polluters accountable while investing in clean energy and pro-

tecting the environment. Critics warn it will raise consumer prices and hurt businesses.

Supporters delivered 375,000 petition signa-

tures to the Secretary of State's office in Olympia Monday. The campaign will need nearly 260,000 valid voters' signatures to be certified for the ballot.



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2018 READERS' CHOICE AWARDS IS COMING!

VOTE!

Show your favorite local Juneau businesses some "love" by voting for them in the 2018 Readers' Choice Awards.

The 2018 voting period starts July 15th and ends July 31st. Cast your votes by filling out one of the printed ballots in the newspaper, or online at JuneauEmpire.com. All printed ballots must be submitted by 5pm Tuesday, July 31st. The 2018 business winners will be announced in September.

Your Vote Counts!

Anchorage protesters urge opposition to pick

By RACHEL D'ORO
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANCHORAGE — Protesters in Alaska's largest city rallied outside the office of U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski on Monday to urge her to vote against President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee.

Trump was set to announce his choice Monday night. But participants at the Anchorage protest said any selection by Trump would signify a shift to the far right for the court and pose a threat to Roe v. Wade, which established a woman's right to abortion.

Murkowski, R-Alaska, has supported access to abortion rights, along with

fellow Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine. A Murkowski spokeswoman did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the protest.

Participants said they hope their presence sends a message to Murkowski to keep supporting abortion rights. They waved signs and chanted, "Show me what solidarity looks like!" followed by shouts of, "This is what solidarity looks like!"

Murkowski voted to confirm Trump's first Supreme Court nominee last year, Neil Gorsuch. But the senator needs to remember she represents all Alaskans, and not just Re-

publicans, said Shoshanah Stone with the left-leaning grassroots organization Indivisible Anchorage.

"There's a majority of people who are not wanting this right-wing justice coalition," she said.

Gwen Helms of Anchorage, among about 75 protesters at the downtown rally, held a sign that read: "Without Roe v. Wade, women will die."

"I was a teenager when Roe v. Wade was put into effect," said Helms, a 62-year-old retired state corrections officer. "I just know that abortions are always going to happen and they need to be safe."

Mischa Daniels of Anchorage was among pro-



RACHEL D'ORO | THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shoshanah Stone, with the grassroots group Indivisible Anchorage, participates in a protest organized by her group outside U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski's office Monday in Anchorage. Protesters rallied to urge Murkowski to vote against President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee.

testers who went inside Murkowski's office and filled out a public statement form. "I just wrote her a note asking her to fulfill her promises to protect women's rights," Dan-

iels said.

Earlier Monday a group, including a retired state judge and a Native Rights lawyer, held a news conference to discuss the pending Supreme Court

nomination. Speakers said the selection will be critical in multiple areas, including Native subsistence rights, health care, gay rights and the environ-

Dogs find companionship in the human pound

Prison program rehabs, trains shelter animals

By ERIN THOMPSON
PENINSULA CLARION

They may be in prison, but some of Wildwood Correctional Complex inmates aren't exactly doing hard time. For the approximately 85 dogs that have been taken in through the facility's dog rehabilitation program, prison means a warm place to sleep, lots of treats and a really big yard.

Since 2013, inmates have taken in dogs and cared for them through the prison's Shelter Pet Obedience Training. The program was the initiative of Superintendent Shannon McCloud, who had heard about successful programs in other prisons and thought they might give the Wildwood inmates a productive activity.

"I just happened to notice people just kind of milling around not doing anything and that always spells trouble in a prison — when we don't have things for people to do," McCloud said.

While the program was slow to start up — McCloud initially only got the OK to take in one dog — it took off in earnest once McCloud took on the role of superintendent in 2016.

"We went from one to six overnight," McCloud said.

McCloud said she was initially concerned some inmates might not warm up to having dogs in their midst, but for the most part, inmates have welcomed the furry friends.

"But the atmosphere is so much different for staff and inmates. ... If you're having a bad day, you can go pet the dog, feel better," she said.

About 15 prisoners are involved in training at the facility, and the number of animals trained at a time tops out at about 10, McCloud said.

For Alan Newby — one of the prison's current dog handlers — having a dog to take care of keeps him busy and focused on his immediate responsibilities.

"With the dogs you don't wake up thinking, 'What am I going to do today?'" Newby said. "It's, 'Well I have a schedule. The dogs has the needs.'"

Newby's latest charge is Hailey, an energetic boxer mix for which he's been caring since April. A repeat resident of the prison — she was adopted out as a puppy but returned by its owners — Hailey often overwhelms other dogs and has to be kept on her own. Every day Newby brings her to his shift at the greenhouse, where the

two play hide and seek among the tall leaves of the tomato plants.

"I try to play games with her where I got her to think," he said. "It's just about getting her to think about it. It just stimulates her brain, keeps her active. And she's actually calmed down quite a bit since she's gotten here."

Newby first began working with dogs at an Arizona prison in 2003, when he and fellow inmate Jonathan Norton participated in a service-dog training program. Having service dogs helped give him perspective on his own life, he said.

"It was kinda the reality point, where you see you think you have it so bad, but that person is wheelchair-bound, they can't get out, can't get down and pick something up," Newby said. "And so they are reliant on that dog. They are reliant on you, to make sure that dog does everything that they need, and doesn't hurt them or somebody out in public."

McCloud said she initially envisioned the Wildwood program as a service-dog training program, but the logistical hurdles of running such a program — service-dog training can take years and requires qualified handlers — proved unrealistic.

"So we decided to just do the best we could and save as many dogs as we could," McCloud said.

Norton said he believes the presence of the dogs has helped create a more positive environment in the prison.

"Even though I feel averse to talking to some people — for whatever reason — I try to be polite and stop myself. And if the dog wants, let them interact with the dog, and then ask whatever questions they have."

Through the years Norton has taken care of more dogs than he can count — although a few do stand out. One dog, he remembers, came into the program as a boy. It was, in fact, very much a girl, and heavily pregnant. The dog gave birth to a litter of eight on Norton's pillow.

"That was an experi-

ence," Norton said.

Dog care is an around-the-clock responsibility, and Norton has to split his time between prison work — which begins at 4 a.m. in the kitchen for him — and taking care of his dogs.

"Today at like, probably around midnight, I woke up to my face getting licked," Norton said. "And then one o'clock I woke up to my face getting licked. Two o'clock got woke up to my face getting licked."

Norton's current charge is a fluffy black Pomeranian, whom he has dubbed "Vicious Pretty" — at least until he's given a permanent name — for his predilection for biting.

"I was told if he bites one more person on the street they're going to put him down," he said. "So the mission was ... to try to save this dog and I realized that almost immediately that his bites are fear-based."

Small enough to fit in the crook of Norton's arm and decked out in a silky tie, Vicious Pretty still has a hard time with the noise and people of the prison environment, but has grown attached.

"It's taken him about a week for him to come out of his shell, at least with me, and, not cower and not bite me, and not have what we call freak-outs, and spaz out real quick," he said. "Now he gets affection in the middle of the night, so I'm not sure if it's affection, or if he has to use the bathroom," Norton said.

Norton said he initially turned down the opportunity to work with dogs.

"The only experience I had with a dog was getting chased," Norton said.

He had second thoughts, however, and signed onto the program.

"I got to thinking, I'm a longtimer, and at the time, I was like, I need to take opportunities when they pop up, because I might never have a chance to do it again," he said.

The prison not only adopts out dogs, but has taken in a permanent resident. Taz, a 9-year-old half-Great Pyrenees, half-bull mastiff, is the

constant companion of inmate Ernest Rogers. The elderly dog arrived at the prison about 16 months ago underfed and with medical problems. Rogers took him on as a full-time caregiver. Now bulked up by the treats he receives from staff and inmates alike, Taz sleeps on Rogers' bed and is his constant companion.

"He's taught me a lot, responsibility," Rogers said. "Nobody's ever depended on me. He depends on me every day. So it keeps me out of trouble and I know he depends on me. I can't leave him."

Taking care of animals can be expensive. McCloud estimates it costs about \$600 to \$700 a month to pay for veterinary upkeep for all the dogs — depending on the number of dogs and

their conditions when they arrive. Prisoners pay for the cost of caring for the dogs themselves through the Prisoner Welfare Fund and fundraisers.

Local veterinarian Mary Huhndorf at the North Road Veterinary Wellness Clinic in Nikiski also provides discounts to prisoners.

Huhndorf covers the costs of vaccinations, and offers services at a discounted rate for costlier procedures. Since launching her clinic in 2016, she's seen between 30 and 40 dogs.

"I think that's an excellent thing for inmates to do. I think it's a win-win situation," Huhndorf said. "When I hard they were doing it, I just wanted to help them."

Dogs who come in without behavioral problems might be adopted

out after six to eight weeks. Others stay longer, depending on their needs. Adoptees are advertised on the program's Facebook page and the Department of Corrections, where potential owners can check out pictures of current prison adoptees.

Norton has seen a lot of dogs come and go, and despite growing attached to some of them, he's happy to see them go to good homes.

"You care for them so long. Man, they're part of your life. But seeing who they were going to, and the joy that these people ... were getting out of these dogs, it was overwhelming," he said. "It suppressed any sort of anxiety or grief or anything I could have felt by having to give the dog up, because I'm helping somebody."

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Development of this proposed project would follow a process required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Based on project location and scope of work, the environmental document is anticipated to be a categorical exclusion (CE). Possible affected resources include wetlands, waters of the U.S., eagles, and cultural or historic properties.

The proposed project would comply with all applicable authorities including:

- National Historic Preservation Act Section 106
- Clean Air Act
- EO-13175 (Consult & Coordinate w/ Ind Tribal Gov)
- Clean Water Act
- EO-11593 (Protect & Enhance Cultural Env.)
- EO-11990 (Protect Wetlands)
- EO-13007 (Indian Sacred Sites)
- EO-13112 (Invasive Species)
- EO-11988 (Manage Floodplains)
- EO-12898 (Env. Justice)

It is the policy of the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) that no person shall be excluded from participation in, or be denied benefits of any and all programs or activities we provide based on race, religion, color, gender, age, marital status, ability, or national origin, regardless of the funding source including Federal Transit Administration, Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Highway Administration and State of Alaska Funds. The DOT&PF complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

If you or someone you represent requires special accommodations in order to respond to this public notice, please call or email the project coordinator listed above or call Alaska Relay at 711 or call

(800) 770-8973 for TTY (800) 770-8255 for voice
(800) 770-3919 for ASCLL (866) 355-6198 for STS

Ask the communications assistant to call the project coordinator listed above so arrangements can be made to assist you.

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TODAY'S

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