DARE TO EXPLORE
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Just Jellies!

MONKEY TAKES PHOTOS

Summer Fun
Surfing Poster
Make your own Ice Lollies
QUIZ: Are you Normal?

Issue 100 December 2012 R27.00 (VAT incl.)
Wow! This issue is the hundredth English issue of NG KIDS. We’re very proud of every issue but here are a few of my favourite covers.

Issue 1 (June 2004) I have to choose this one, which takes us back to the early days of Harry Potter and Shrek.

Issue 15 (October 2005) Our amazing 3-D Future World issue transported you to the year 2035 and was a huge hit.

Issue 28 (December 2006) Summer is just better with NG KIDS! We had 75 cool ideas for a fun-filled time.

Issue 33 (April 2007) Anybody remember the cool poster in which we featured you and your pets? We’ll be doing that again, so watch out for that in 2013.

Issue 51 (November 2008) Dynamite Dino issue. Anybody like to see dinosaurs roam the pages of NG KIDS again?

Issue 54 (February 2009) This special issue celebrated how much we love animals at NG KIDS.

Issue 89 (January 2012) The rhinoceros story got a great reaction from you. You wrote to tell us how much you care about what is happening to rhinos.

Dare to Explore!

100 years!

If you think 100 issues is cool, how about 100 years? I met Joan McCrae, who was born on 12 February 1912. She talked about what life was like for her as a child. No digital devices for her – she remembers the excitement when electricity was installed in their house!

Subscribers of the month

December’s subscribers of the month are Ethan Duncan, Ben Blumberg, SG Gerber and James Weyer. They’ve each won two books from the Heroes of Olympus book series, courtesy of Penguin Books and worth R270.

Rick Riordan is a phenomenally successful author and a master of mythical stories. Heroes of Olympus: The Demigod Diaries contains three new short stories. Heroes of Olympus: The Mark of Athena is the third book in the Percy Jackson series. Both are action-packed adventures not to be missed this summer.

Go to www.penguinbooks.co.za for more information.

Write to us!

Send us your letters, birthday dates, pictures and comments. We want to hear from you, so start writing!

- Write to us at: The Editor, NG KIDS, PO Box 740, Cape Town 8000.
- Send us an e-mail to fiona@ngkids.co.za or SMS us a letter to “NGK Letters” 33970.
- See page 49 for terms and conditions.

“Old” reader of the month

Nadav Osgendrywer appeared in our June 2007 issue of NG KIDS, when he was ten years old.

Five years later he combined his passion for wildlife and conservation with his love of the Kruger Park to create something unique. It’s a real-time online wildlife spotting service for visitors to the park. It’s also an important research tool and he’s teamed up with conservation groups like the KNP Wild Dogs, Endangered Wildlife Trust and the leopard identification project.

For his work Nadav has been named the park’s first virtual honorary ranger. Check it out at www.latesights.com.

Hello Fiona

How are you? My name is Nadav and I am ten years old. I go to Yeshiva College in Johannesburg. My school recently awarded me a trophy for my love of nature and conservation. I love going to game reserves and love to study animals and birds.

My favourite game reserve is the Kruger National Park. I hope to visit the Kalahari National Park soon. My best friend, Matti and I are already planning our own game reserve for when we finish school.

I love reading National Geographic KIDS.

Thanks

Nadav

Find Me!

The knobby starfish is in trouble! To create awareness, we hid ten of them in the magazine. Here’s one, but can you spot all ten?
Jelly Journey
A marine biologist tells us more about jellyfish.

page 18

Where Am I?
Five animals give you clues about their homes. Can you figure out where they live?

page 30

Smart Toys
Discover the science behind the coolest toys of the season.

page 34

The Hobbit
NG KIDS goes behind the scenes of the new movie.

page 36

Family Project
Make your own yummy ice lollies.

page 47

DEPARTMENTS
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50  Just Joking
Each year scientists discover more than 15 000 new animal species. Over 1.8 million kinds of living things have been found, named and described. How many more are there? Some experts said recently there may be more than 8 million.

While you try to get your head around those mind-boggling numbers, have a look at some of our favourites among animals discovered in 2012.

You don’t always have to climb high or dive deep to find new species. Take the story of Georgette and her pet. Scientists exploring a remote forest in the Democratic Republic of the Congo went to the nearest town one day and saw a monkey on a lead. The school principal’s daughter, Georgette, adopted the monkey after her mum was killed by hunters. The experts thought she was an owl monkey, a species they know of, but after much research decided the lesula, as locals call it, is a different species. You’ll recognise a lesula by its human-like eyes and bright blue bum!

Remember the little guy with the big ears in Star Wars? Funny way of speaking he had. Yoda, his name was. Scientists discovered a reddish purple kind of acorn worm about 2.5 kilometres down in the Atlantic Ocean. It has big lips... on both sides of its head. They look like large ears and so the worm was named Yoda purpurata, or purple Yoda.

Experts don’t expect to find much animal life when they are, say 140 kilometres below the ground. But at that depth, in a South African gold mine, they found a round worm about 0.5 millimetres long. The amazing thing is that it survives huge pressure from the ground above and heat of up to 37 degrees Celsius. No wonder they named it a devil’s worm. The worms live in water which hasn’t made contact with Earth’s atmosphere in up to 6 000 years. The devil worms have been there for a long time and live deeper underground than any multicellular thing on the planet.

There are about 2 300 kinds of rodent on Earth. All of them have strong teeth and like to gnaw on stuff. Or so we thought, until scientists discovered a toothless rat (Paucidentomys vermidix) on an Indonesian island. This rat doesn’t chew much since it lives on soft earthworms. Probably sucks them in like spaghetti!
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MACAQUE TAKES SELF-PORTRAIT

Sulawesi, Indonesia
When a macaque at Tangkoko Nature Reserve came across a camera, something clicked. He grabbed it and started taking pictures.

Wildlife photographer David Slater was tracking the macaque’s troop and had placed his camera on a tripod. The monkey instantly scrambled over, grabbed the device and began pressing buttons. He snapped self-portraits and shots of his fellow macaques.

“The monkeys kept showing their teeth when the lens was pointing at them,” David says. “They may have been responding to seeing their reflections in the glass, but it looked as if they were smiling for the camera.” David soon recovered the camera, ending the photo shoot.

So did this snap-happy macaque really want to be a photographer? “No,” primate expert Dario Maestripieri says. “Monkeys are just naturally curious about unfamiliar objects.” Guess he was monkeying around.

DAVID SLATER / CATERS NEWS AGENCY (MACAQUE, BOTH); © PAUL MILLER / EPA / CORBIS (BRENDA); AP PHOTO / DANG N. LE / HANK FOR SENATE 2012 CAMPAIGN (HANK)
Check with your local municipality before getting a pet hen.

**CHICKEN WALKS ON LEASH**

Sydney, Australia
Goldie the chicken has an egg-cellent exercise routine. The city bird takes walks wearing a lead. “She loves exploring the street,” says owner John Huntington, whose company City Chicks teaches city dwellers to care for hens in their back gardens.
Raising chickens has become the latest trend in some cities. One reason is that people like the fresh eggs. “But chickens also make great companions,” says Ingrid Dimock, also of City Chicks. Some owners become so attached to their feathered friends that they treat the hens the same as dogs. They even take them for daily strolls.
Before Goldie goes on walks, her owner places her in a comfortable harness, which is attached to her lead. Unbothered by car noises, the bird moves at a leisurely pace and spends as much time pecking around for food as she does walking. “She’s a bit slow,” John says. “But she has a lot of fun.”

**CAT RUNS FOR SENATE**

Springfield, America
The claws might come out during this year’s Presidential elections in America—one of the candidates running for office is Hank the cat.
With his owner’s help, Hank is campaigning to be a senator. The cat’s name won’t be on the ballot (voters can write him in), so his caretakers don’t expect him to win. “But by running, Hank is drawing attention to issues like the value of animal shelters,” owner Matthew O’Leary says.
The five-kilogram politician has visited pet shops to meet supporters, attended photo shoots and even appeared in his own campaign ad. To look spiffy on the campaign trail, he wears a plaid tie and regularly has his nails trimmed. But Hank’s bid for a spot in the Senate doesn’t get in the way of his favourite activity. “He still has a lot of time for naps,” says Matthew.
Check out these outrageous facts.

An Austrian orchestra plays musical instruments made of veggies.

LEGEND HAS IT THAT PIRATE TREASURE MAY BE BURIED NEAR THE STATUE OF LIBERTY IN AMERICA.

A dog may yawn after seeing a human yawn.

My story wasn’t that boring!

One type of Australian flower spends its entire life underground.

THE MWANZA flat-headed agama lizard resembles SPIDER-MAN.

SOME EXPERTS THINK INDIVIDUAL HONEYBEES HAVE DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES.

NIGHTTIME RAINBOWS ARE COMMON AT YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK.

Want more? Try the book National Geographic Kids Weird But True 4 and the Weird But True app.
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*Terms and conditions apply. Please visit our website for a full list of the terms and conditions. Entries must reach us by 31 December 2012. SMS charged at standard network rates.
1. Ancient people may have mistaken dinosaur bones for dragon remains.

2. Some stories claim that dragon eggs took 3,000 years to hatch.

3. Draco, the Latin word for dragon, is the name of a dragon-shaped constellation.

4. People in China used to think dragons controlled rain.

5. The flag of Wales features a red dragon.

6. Dragons in very old South American tales had feathers.

7. The capital of Vietnam was once known as Thang Long, or “Soaring Dragon”.

8. In parts of Asia these mythical creatures were considered kind.

9. Long ago, people in Europe believed a dragon’s blood cured illness.
Capitals of the world!

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There are 4 capital cities in this series. Create your "Rome Capital of the world" to enter for December 2012. Look out for the final "capital of the world" details by going to www.bantex.co.za or www.redro.co.za (www.bokomo.co.za).

What to do:
1. Draw a piece of A4 paper, a Bantex glue stick and Bantex scissors.
2. Find some fun pictures of Rome & its landmarks.
3. Cut them out & stick them to your page.
4. Write some cool captions & comments under your pictures.
5. Put your name, age, telephone number, address or email address on your page so that we can contact you.
6. Post your masterpiece in an A4 envelope to:
   Bantex Capitals of the World Competition
   Private Bag 13501, Industria, 2012
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BEARD VS BEARD

WHAT European Beard Championships

WHERE Leogang, Austria

DETAILS Talk about a manly competition. More than 150 well-groomed gentlemen participated in the contest, which featured 17 categories and a lot of hair spray. Contestants spruced up their facial art with curling irons, blow dryers and sculpting wax. Clippers were not welcome.

HORSES DRESS UP

WHAT Horse compression suits

WHERE South Windsor, Australia

DETAILS These outfits really provide some horsepower. During her workout, Panamera the horse wears a blue compression suit. The garment, similar to what human sprinters wear, helps the mare recover from runs by reducing muscle soreness, which can prevent injuries. Looks like she’s right on track.

SHARK GETS FRIENDLY

WHAT Polar Bear Swim

WHERE Vancouver, Canada

DETAILS One fake shark brings new meaning to the phrase “biting cold”. To celebrate the new year, participants in this annual event wade into the English Bay with the water a chilly six degrees Celsius wearing kooky costumes or just bathing suits. The plunge raises money for charity. No cold-hearted people here.

ROTTEN APPLE

WHAT Apple-shaped race car

WHERE Kiev, Ukraine

DETAILS This is one sour apple. The scowling fruit-shaped cart was part of a race against about 50 other wacky-looking vehicles. More than 30,000 people came to watch the event. The apple wasn’t the fastest thing on wheels, but it did provide some juicy competition.
WHATEVER HE GROWS UP TO BE...
HE WILL GROW UP THANKS TO YOU

Sometimes we can make the most amazing things happen – even when we’re not around.

And that’s what a legacy gift in your Will to the Children’s Hospital Trust will do. It can provide critical care for little patients in the wards at the Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital. It can buy new medical equipment, upgrade hospital facilities, provide professional medical training and it will help to save the lives of children just like Keano Rhodes, so that they become living examples of your legacy.

Join our Circle of Life. Leave a legacy for the children at the Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital by making the Children’s Hospital Trust a beneficiary in your Will.

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Fundraising for the Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital and Paediatric Healthcare in the Western Cape. The Children’s Hospital Trust is an independent charity (PBO No. 930 004 493) and works in partnership with the Western Cape Government: Health, who finances the running costs of the Hospital.
Incredible Animal Friends

BY ELISABETH DEFFNER

DOG DIGS DEER PAL

Courtenay, Canada
Kate the Great Dane can’t help but fawn over her buddy, Pippin the black-tailed deer. She lovingly licks her hooved pal’s coat and constantly nuzzles her neck.

The Great Dane’s owner, Isobel Springett, found the scared and hungry orphaned fawn near her home and brought her inside to feed her. "The moment the two animals laid eyes on each other, they were best friends," Isobel says. Over the next few weeks, Pippin gained strength and bonded with her dog pal. The buddies would spend the day play-fighting and running after a toy ball.

Pippin soon got healthy and joined a wild deer herd. But she still pays regular visits to Kate. When they’re not cuddling, they playfully chase one another or other animals. Isobel once saw them scamper after a black bear. "He took one look at the pair and ran in the other direction," she says. This dog-and-deer team cannot be stopped!

BLACK-TAILED DEER
RANGE The Pacific Northwest region of the United States and Canada
WEIGHT 40 to 90 kilograms
DEER TALK Black-tailed deer use up to 12 different sounds to communicate.
TOUGH STOMACH These animals can safely eat poison oak—a shrub that only grows along the Pacific Coast of North America and causes bad itching. It’s one of their favourite foods.

GREAT DANE
WEIGHT 45 to 70 kilograms
ORIGIN Germany
GIANT GROWTH SPURTS Pups can grow to more than 70 times its birth weight in one year.
ROYAL POOCH Emperors and kings used to give these dogs as gifts to other monarchs.

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Carry your own bags and do it in style with designer luggage from Samsonite’s cute and cheeky Sammies Kids collection. TEN LUCKY READERS can win Samsonite luggage sets worth R2 000 each!

Samsonite’s Sammies Kids collection is ideal for the trendiest of little globetrotters. Not only is the luggage a perfect fit for the youngsters’ needs, it features creatures that children can’t help but love such as the Ladybird, the Crocodile, the busy Bee and now the beautiful Butterfly, adorable Elephant and delightful Dog!

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HOW TO ENTER: ANSWER THIS EASY QUESTION!

Question: Name one of the creatures featured on Samsonite’s Sammies sets.

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- Or SMS* “NGK Sammies” followed by your answer, name, surname, e-mail address and city to 33970.

You can enter as many times as you like.

COMPETITION CLOSES 18 DECEMBER 2012. ALL MODELS ARE AVAILABLE FROM LEADING LUGGAGE RETAILERS COUNTRYWIDE. GO TO WWW.SAMSONITE.COM OR CALL 031-266-0620 TO LOCATE A STOCKIST NEAR YOU.

*GO TO PAGE 49 FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS.
Every time I step into the ocean, I know I’m in for an adventure. I’m a marine biologist, and study ocean sunfish or mola. This goofy-looking animal is the world’s largest bony fish. An adult can weigh as much as a small car. It has a huge head, stiff spine and no tail. When swimming it looks like it’s flying, as it flaps its wing-like fins. It can even shoot out of the water. It has a habit of kicking back and floating on the surface to bask in the sun.
Jelly for Dinner, anyone?
The sunfish’s favourite meal is jellyfish. One day when I was looking for sunfish off the coast of South Africa, I swam into the largest swarm of jellyfish I had ever seen. Each jelly was the size of a soccer ball, with tentacles like frilly tutus. They clogged the surface for as far as I could see, and it was like swimming through thick syrup. What a wonderful all-you-can-eat buffet for a sunfish, I thought!

Slurp!
Watching a sunfish eat a jellyfish can be a pretty odd sight. I saw one sneak up under a big jelly—slurp!—only the tentacles were left dangling from the sunfish’s mouth. The big fish looked like it was kissing a bunch of purple snakes. They also love egg-yolk jellies. These jellies are yellow and clear and look like the insides of a runny egg that’s been cracked open. A sunfish will suck one into its round mouth with one big slurp. Importantly, the sunfish as well as a few other animals, like sea turtles, have adaptations that protect them from stings. The sunfish for instance has a very tough skin, with little plates with sharp spines that cover it. Thick gooey mucus also coats its skin, which protects it against the stinging cells.
Jellyfish have no bones and no brain, yet they are beautiful and can even be deadly. Some scientists even think these seemingly simple creatures rule the seas. Dive in with me to discover more about jellyfish.

No-brainer

Spineless Wonders

Jellyfish are invertebrates and have no bones at all, so their bell-shaped bodies are squishy. Most have snaky tentacles that dangle from their bodies. Some have tentacles that sting and stun their prey. All jellies gobble up plankton, shrimps, fish and even other jellies.

Lovely Looks

With their trailing tentacles, jellies are some of the most alien-looking animals I’ve ever seen. Each species of jellyfish looks different. The crown jelly is stunning, with an array of purple “spikes” sticking out from a broad, circular bell. Some jellies have tinges of yellow, purple, orange or brown. Many have transparent bodies, which means you can see their organs! Even clear jellies aren’t colourless. Some light up and can glow green, blue or violet. The sudden light can scare off predators. A comb jellyfish turns on the colour when hit by sunlight. Once I was swimming off the coast of California in America and drifted into a huge group of these transparent jellyfish. Then an amazing thing happened. Sunlight hit the clear combs and they flashed bright green, red and blue. The sun made rainbows of light slide down their bodies as they swam.
Jet-propelled
Jellyfish may be boneless and brainless but that doesn’t mean that they’re helpless. Scientists think jellyfish have been living in oceans for 650 million years. They were there even before dinosaurs existed. It is likely that they were the first animals whose nerves and muscles worked together. They have a simple nervous system called a nerve net. This is used to detect light, odour and danger. The nerve net sends a signal that makes the muscles around the bell contract or squeeze. Water rushes out, the muscles relax and the elastic body springs open. This is how the jelly moves along. They can’t always choose where they’re going, though. Ocean currents, tides and wind can take jellies in any direction.

Poison Power
I watch out when I’m swimming with jellies not to tangle with their tentacles. Many jellies have stinging cells that line their tentacles with poison-filled barbs. When a jelly brushes against a human or prey, the barbs blast out with tremendous force. Some pierce the prey with lightning speed and can paralyse prey. Because of this sting most predators keep well away from jellies. Luckily only about 70 species of jellyfish have stings powerful enough to hurt a human. Most stings feel a bit like an insect bite but some are a lot worse. The box jellyfish is one of the deadliest animals on Earth. Tentacles grow from each corner of a box jelly’s cube-shaped bell. They can be three metres long and each has about 5,000 stinging cells. Its sting is so powerful, it can cause someone to go into shock and drown.

Here, there, everywhere
Jellyfish live in every ocean and saltwater lakes. Some even live in fresh water. Others can survive in the most extreme places, like under the ice in the Arctic and Antarctic. They can live where nearly everything else has died. These “dead zones” are caused by pollution and are areas in the ocean where oxygen levels are very low. Most sea life dies without oxygen. Not some jellyfish, though. They don’t use much energy to get around.

This trait could be useful for jellies as the ocean warms up, which will also reduce the amount of oxygen in the water. Some jellies melt in the heat but other thrive as they feed longer and reproduce faster.

That may be why we’re hearing about more jelly blooms, which is a cluster of thousands or millions of jellies in one place. Some blooms can cause big problems, as jellyfish swarms gobble up fish eggs and young fish. Jelly blooms can close beaches, because it’s too dangerous to swim when stinging jellies swarm.

Jellies rule
Are blooms like these be a sign that jellies will rule the oceans one day? Do they already? We won’t be able to tell until we know more about jellies. I’m making it my job to find the answers!
WHO’S SCARED OF Slobbering Zombies and Slimy Monsters? The bacteria living inside your body are ICKY ENOUGH.

BY CRISPIN BOYER

Don’t panic, but you’re outnumbered by alien life forms. They look like hairy hot dogs, spiky blobs and oozing spirals and they’re crawling across—and deep inside—your body right this minute. They’re bacteria!

Your body is made of trillions of tiny living blobs, called cells, that work together to do amazing things, such as holding in your organs or helping you beat your brother at Super Mario Kart. But every cell you call your own has about ten foreign bacteria around or near it. You can’t see these hitch-hikers, but you can smell many of them. Like any living thing, bacteria eat, reproduce, die and create waste. A lot of this waste is the source of your body odour, bad breath and torturous toots. In other words, some bacteria can make your life stink!

If the thought of being a human-shaped planet for microscopic inhabitants makes you queasy, relax. Most of your body’s microbes have been hanging out harmlessly in your body for years and are essential for good health. Just like a fingerprint, your bacteria make you who you are, because no two people host the same mix of microorganisms. Cool, but still disgusting!

Meet four famous bacteria that call your body “home, sweet home...”

1 ACTINOMYCES VISCOUS

When your dentist breaks out the power tools to jackhammer the brownish coat of slime known as plaque from your teeth, she’s really attacking these mouth-dwelling bacteria.
Your body's bacterial zoo begins when you're born, as you take in bacteria from your mum's skin and milk. You also consume lots of harmless and helpful bacteria in food and water every day.

Some bacteria are used by scientists to help produce new vaccines and other medicine.

Your body's bacteria eat everything from salt inside your intestines to chemicals in your sweat.

Belly button lint—a mix of clothing fibres and dead skin cells—is a hot spot for bacteria. Scientists recently found more than 1,400 species of microbes living in people's navels.
ONE OF THE “FOUNDING FATHERS” OF THE USA, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, designed and printed this 100-shilling note in 1759.

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA ONCE ISSUED A 500-BILLION DINAR NOTE—THAT’S 11 ZEROS!

ANCIENT AZTECS USED COCOA BEANS AS CURRENCY.

During World War II, Canada minted a “VICTORY NICKEL” with the Morse code message “We win when we work willingly.”

SIR EDMUND HILLARY—THE FIRST EXPLORER TO SUMMIT MOUNT EVEREST—APPEARS ON THE FIVE-DOLLAR NOTE IN HIS NATIVE NEW ZEALAND.

THE PACIFIC ISLAND OF PALAU ISSUED A SILVER COIN THAT SMELLS LIKE OCEAN BREEZES.

In China and Vietnam, people burn fake money—called “ghost money”—to honour their ancestors.

WANT A RAISE IN YOUR POCKET MONEY? TELL YOUR PARENTS YOU’LL PUT THE EXTRA CASH IN A SAVINGS ACCOUNT.
SHE IS NOT A KID!

Standing just over 60 centimetres tall, Jyoti Amge of India is the shortest living woman. The 18-year-old leads a normal life—with a few adjustments for her condition, which is caused by a form of dwarfism. Her clothes, eating utensils, and even her jewellery are custom-made to fit her body, and she sits at a small desk in an even smaller chair at school. But her tiny size doesn’t stop her from dreaming big.

GIGANTIC VIOLIN

Get out your stepping stool. The world’s largest violin is 4.2 metres tall—about the height of seven regular violins stacked on top of one another. Built from the same materials as a standard violin, this one needs seven people to carry it to its oversize trailer and has a 5-metre bow. That’s a huge jam session!

SKIPPING DOGS!

For most dogs, a skipping rope means a game of tug of war. Not these 13 pooches. They hold the record for the most number of dogs skipping with the same rope. The canines’ owners taught them to skip as part of their playtime, then added the rope. The pooches keep rhythm with commands from their owners. Maybe it won’t be long before they learn to jump two ropes.
EASTER BUNNY

JACK FROST

SANTA CLAUS

TOOTH FAIRY

THE SANDMAN

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RISE OF THE GUARDIANS

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RISE OF THE GUARDIANS: THE VIDEO GAME
30 November 2012
Surfer in Hawaii
Guess where on Earth these five animals stay.

Fennec Fox

CLUES

1. I’m sometimes called a “desert fox” as my home stretches over areas of northern Africa and the Sinai and Arabian peninsulas. Only a few animals can survive here.

2. I’m an omnivore and during the day I stay out of the heat in tunnels I burrow in the sand dunes. At night I come out to eat rodents and plants.

3. My large, bat-like ears (which can grow about 15 centimetres long) keep me cool in temperatures over 50 degrees Celsius and my hairy soles protect my feet against the hot sand.

ANSWER: S A A A E E E T
CLUES

1 I am highly endangered and I can be spotted in the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and the Virunga mountains.

2 I am an easy-going vegetarian that loves playing in the lush, tropical mountain forests of my home.

ANSWER

Mountain Gorilla

© ISTOCKPHTOTO IFENNEC FOX, CAPYBARA, BALD EAGLE; INPRA (MOUNTAIN GORILLA); © GETTY/GALLO IMAGES (KAKAPO)
**Capybara**

**CLUES**

1. My home produces more than 20 percent of Earth’s oxygen and is sometimes called the “lungs of the planet.” It is also one of the seven natural wonders of the world.

2. I’m the largest rodent on Earth and live among over half of the world’s estimated species of plants, insects and animals. Deforestation threatens my home.

**ANSWER**

RAINFORESTS

---

**Kakapo**

**CLUES**

1. My home was the last major land mass to be populated. Other famous birds from this area are the kiwi and the moa.

2. I’m the heavyweight champion of the parrot world. I can’t fly and am one of the rarest birds on the planet.

3. I love staying on this mountainous island, but prefer spending my nights wandering through the forest by myself.

**ANSWER**

NEW ZEALAND

---

**Bald Eagle**

**CLUES**

1. I live on the third largest continent on Earth and I’m the national symbol of the fourth largest country in the world.

2. I love soaring above the forests, swamps, wetlands, lakes and rivers of my home. My favourite view from above is the Grand Canyon and sometimes I drink water from the Mississippi River.
My home was named after the explorer Amerigo Vespucci.

**ANSWERS**

**Fennec**
**ANSWER:** Sahara Desert
**RANGE:** Found in northern Africa and Asia. From Morocco to Egypt, as far south as northern Niger and as far east as Kuwait.

**Mountain Gorilla**
**ANSWER:** Uganda, Africa

**Capybara**
**ANSWER:** Amazon Rainforest

**Kakapo**
**ANSWER:** New Zealand, Codfish Island and Anchor Island

**Bald Eagle**
**ANSWER:** North America
**RANGE:** Canada and Alaska, the USA and northern Mexico.

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS** 33
Supercharged with top-notch technology, this year’s coolest toys are totally realistic, from skittering robo-insects to a stuffed pony with lifelike moves. “Toymakers are combining cutting-edge science with inspiration from the real world,” says Adrienne Appell of the Toy Industry Association. “The results are cool gizmos that challenge tech-savvy kids.” Check out the science that makes these five great toys so smart.

**FurReal Friends Baby Butterscotch.**

**THE TOY**

FurReal Friends Baby Butterscotch.

**WHAT IT IS**

A toy pony that responds to touch

**COOL SCIENCE**

Touch sensors

**HOW IT WORKS**

This toy is the next best thing if you can’t get a real pony. Baby Butterscotch has touch sensors on its head, back and side that react to what you’re doing. The sensors detect where your fingers are and send the information to a microchip. The chip decides how the pony will respond based on the location of your fingers. So a scratch of the ears might get a warm nuzzle and a pat on the back could bring out a whinny. Feed the pony its carrot “treat” and you’ll hear chewing sounds. Hey, even pretend ponies like to snack!
THE TOY
Regal Elite Force Flyer
WHAT IT IS
A toy helicopter controlled by a glove
COOL SCIENCE
Directional measurement
HOW IT WORKS
Twist your gloved hand left, right, up, or down, and the Force Flyer chopper mirrors your movements. A device called an accelerometer inside the motion glove measures each tiny change in your hand’s direction, then sends a signal to the toy to copy your motion. Think of when you hold a smart phone vertically, then turn it sideways. Once the gadget detects the new position, it tells the graphics on the phone screen to turn horizontally, too.

THE TOY
HEXBUG Larva
WHAT IT IS
An insect 'bot that changes direction when it senses barriers
COOL SCIENCE
Infrared light
HOW IT WORKS
Break out the bug spray! When this lifelike, speedy robotic insect crawls near an obstacle such as a wall or your shoe, it reverses and wriggles off in a new direction. How does the robo-bug “see” barriers? The toy’s nose shoots out an invisible beam of infrared light. If something blocks the larva’s path, the beam bounces back to a sensor in the nose and the toy knows to change course. It’s similar to the way a bat bounces sound waves off trees and other objects to find a clear flight path.

THE TOY
Crayola Digital Light Designer
WHAT IT IS
A domed drawing surface for creating light pictures
COOL SCIENCE
Persistence of vision
HOW IT WORKS
When you touch your digital pen to the toy’s drawing surface, it looks like you’re drawing in light. But the light is projected to the outer dome from tiny bulbs on a disk inside the toy. The points of light that appear on the surface seem to stay in place, but the inner disk and bulbs are actually spinning so fast that your eye can’t detect the movement. This optical illusion is called persistence of vision.

THE TOY
Nat Geo WILD Anteater Bug Vac
WHAT IT IS
An anteater-shaped gadget that lets you gather and inspect bugs safely
COOL SCIENCE
Suction
HOW IT WORKS
Point the snout of your Anteater Bug Vac at creepy crawlies in your backyard and hit the power button. This turns on a fan inside the toy that moves the air particles around. The force of the fan’s motion causes the air pressure inside the toy to decrease. As the air pressure outside the toy becomes greater than the pressure inside, the air outside flows in, bringing bugs with it. This is suction, and it’s similar to what happens when you sip juice through a straw. Since the anteater’s suction isn’t too strong, the critters remain safe as they are sucked into the toy’s see-through tummy. Check them out – then set them free.
The new movie *The Hobbit* is about Bilbo Baggins, a hobbit sent on a scary adventure through Middle-Earth to reclaim the lost Dwarf Kingdom of Erebor, which was conquered long ago by the dragon Smaug. We’ve met Bilbo before. He’s the uncle of Frodo Baggins, the hero of *Lord of the Rings*. But this story takes place long before *Lord of the Rings*.

Bilbo and his friends go on a journey to places they’ve never seen—dangerous lands swarming with goblins and orcs, scary characters we met in *Lord of the Rings*, as well as wargs, giant spiders, shapeshifters and sorcerers.

The writer of *The Hobbit*, J.R.R. Tolkien, was born in Bloemfontein. Some of the things he experienced there became the inspiration for places and characters in *Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*. J.R.R. once mentioned a baboon spider bit him when he was a child and this was his main influence when he created Shelob the Giant Spider.

In *The Hobbit*, twelve of the dwarves are captured by spiders and Bilbo has to fight off a giant spider with his sword to save them.

Baboon spiders are not deadly to humans, but some are venomous and their bite is extremely painful! These tarantulas are called baboon spiders because their legs look like a baboon’s fingers.

Bilbo doesn’t have to travel alone. He is joined by thirteen dwarves called Nori, Fili, Dori, Bofur, Gloin, Dwalin,Thorin Oakenshield, Balin, Oin, Bombur, Bifur, Ori and Kili. Filming wasn’t a breeze for the actors playing the dwarves. Each carried an average load of nearly 80 kilograms while wearing a fat suit, prosthetics and a serious amount of facial hair. Since their names were so similar, director Peter Jackson thought it was important to make them easy to recognise. So each dwarf had different clothes, his own hairstyle and beard—not to mention his own quirky personality. Peter expanded the characters so much, he had to split the novel into three movies!
THE HOBBIT, BILBO BAGGINS

3 HOBBIT HEROES

The most important characters in The Hobbit are, well, the hobbits. These halflings are just over one metre tall. You’ll know them by their hairy feet! Peter Jackson focused on the feet so much that over 1 800 hobbit feet were made for the first Lord of The Rings movie!

Hobbits sound like made-up characters, but deep in a cave in Flores, a remote island in Indonesia, scientists found nine tiny skeletons only one metre tall with grapefruit-sized skulls and long arms. They lived there more than 13 000 years ago. Scientists called them Homo Floresiensis, but nicknamed them Hobbits after Tolkien’s characters.

4 TERRIBLE TYRANT

Smaug the Terrible, a giant dragon, conquered Erebor, destroying most of its inhabitants and collecting all their treasures. Bilbo and his team set off to defeat this monster.

Dragons play a big part in old stories told in many cultures. In Chinese folklore, dragons are seen as lucky and a symbol of happiness. Dragon images and carvings which were made by Vikings for decorations and ornaments, have been found on many archaeological sites. They also carved dragons on the bows of ships to protect the seafarers. The dragons were believed to scare away serpents that came from the depths of the ocean.

5 CREEPY CAVE CREATURE

While trying to escape from the goblin tunnels, Bilbo gets lost in a cave. There he meets the creature Gollum for the first time. Gollum isn’t a pretty sight – he’s been living in the dark for too long!

There are many animals who also adapted to being in darkness all the time. Cave dwellers or troglodytes live in a world where eyes are useless and colour does not matter. These creatures have adapted to living without seeing. Most troglodytes are blind. In fact, some cave creatures are born without eyes. The olm, a kind of salamander, has no eyes or colour, but can live to become 100 years old!

GOLLUM IS ALSO KNOWN AS SMEAGOL

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: NORI, FILI, DORI, BOFUR, GLOIN, DWALIN, THORIN OAKENSHEILD, BALIN, OIN, BOMBUR, BIFUR, ORI AND KILI.
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*SEE PAGE 49 FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS.
Befuddled at the Fairground

With all those yummy food and great rides, this fair looks like fun! But stallholders are a bit confused ... and are not in the right place. Help them get back to their stalls.

*Answers on page 50.*
FUN ON THE FARM
These photographs show things you might see on a farm. Unscramble the letters to identify what's in each picture. Bonus: Use the highlighted letters to solve the puzzle below.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 50

HINT: It’s hard to sleep late at a farm with this natural alarm clock.

ANSWER: ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
EEK! A GHOST STOLE MY HELMET!

Canada’s Brad Martin slips during a men’s snowboard event at the 2008 Winter X Games in Colorado, America.

MAYBE I’LL GET EXTRA POINTS FOR WALKING ON MY HANDS.

I WANT AN ICE CREAM NOW!

The Philadelphia Phillies’ Ben Francisco reacts to a wild pitch during a 2010 baseball game in Philadelphia, America.

WATCH ME. YOUR DANCE MOVES COULD USE A LITTLE WORK.

Norway’s Linn-Kristin Riegelhuth, left, scores against Ukraine’s Viktoriya Tymoshenkov at the 2009 European Women’s Handball Championships in Ohrid, Macedonia.

Canada’s Stefanie Lawton shouts at teammates during a game at the 2009 Canadian Olympic Curling Trials in Edmonton, Canada.
ARE YOU "NORMAL"?

Take this superfun quiz to find your range of strange.

BY MARK SHULMAN

Answer these questions to see how “normal” you really are. Check off your answer to each question, then see how other kids responded. Add up your points, look for your total in the box at the bottom and read what your score says about you.

 WHICH PET WOULD YOU PICK?

☐ Dog: 1  ☐ Cat: 3  ☐ Hamster: 3  ☐ Anything else: 4

Did you choose dog?
More than 50 percent of kids say our best pal is the world’s best pet.

Could it be cat?
1 in 6 is feline just fine.

Must have a hamster?
1 in 9 prefers pets on wheels.

Really like rabbits?
1 in 11 hopes for these hoppers.

Favourite is fish?
1 in 20 likes fish a lot.

 HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR SLICE?

☐ Just cheese: 2  ☐ Pepperoni: 2  ☐ Everything: 4  ☐ Pizza? Ew! 4

Are you pleased with just cheese?
4 in 10 kids like their pizza plain.

Does pepperoni pizza give you pep?
Another 4 in 10 cheer for this extra.

Everything works for you?
Fewer than 1 in 10 go over the top with toppings.

Do you pass on pizza?
Fewer than 1 in 10 say no to this dough.

 WHAT’S YOUR FAVE HANDHELD GADGET?

☐ Phone: 2  ☐ MP3 player: 2  ☐ Video game: 3  ☐ Camera: 4

Fancy a phone?
More than 4 out of 10 kids say cellphones ring true.

Mad for music?
3 in 10 sing the praises of their MP3 players.

Game for gaming?
2 in 10 give portable video games the highest score.

Prefer taking pics?
1 in 10 clicks the most with cameras.

SCORES

17–21 NORMAL AS TOMATO SAUCE ON A HOT DOG
Great minds think alike, and your great mind thinks like a lot of other kids. You’re all about adventure when it comes to things such as sports. But with other things, like pizza, you keep it classic.
22-29 NORMAL AS TOMATO SAUCE ON EGGS
If you were an ice cream flavour, you’d probably be vanilla swirl. You may love some of the same things as other kids (that’s your vanilla side), but you also have a style all your own (your swirl).

30-33 NORMAL AS TOMATO SAUCE ON A WATERMELON
In a nutshell, you’re not like everyone else. Some of your choices—did you pick guppies over puppies, or pass on pizza?—are uncommon. But your wonderful weirdness is what makes you interesting.

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EXCEPTED FROM ARE YOU “NORMAL?” MORE THAN 100 QUESTIONS THAT WILL TEST YOUR WEIRDNESS BY MARK SHULMAN, COPYRIGHT © 2011 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
NG KIDS readers sent us drawings of themselves on an island. Aloha summer!

**Treasure Island**
Sebastian Pedersen, 9, Pringle Bay

**The Adventure Island**
Kerin Helmbold, 9, Betty's Bay

**Paradise Island**
Callum Wilson, 8, Somerset West

**Hawaiian Island**
Abigail Wilson, 7, Somerset West

**DRAW YOUR favourite teacher.**

Send your original drawings to The Editor at NG KIDS, PO Box 740, Cape Town 8000.

Include your name, address, phone number, date of birth, a title for your drawing, a statement that it is your own work and the name of your parent or guardian. Your parent or guardian must sign a release for publication of your illustration. Submissions become the property of the National Geographic Society, and all rights thereto are transferred to the National Geographic Society. Submissions cannot be acknowledged or returned. Selection will be at the discretion of NG KIDS.
When the summer is here, you can fight the warm African sun with these cool and easy treats!

BY JANI COETZEE

1 Beach Banana
What you’ll need:
• 1 banana
• Otees cereal
• Ice lolly sticks
• Strawberry yoghurt
What you do:
• Cut banana in half.
• Stick ice lolly sticks into each banana half.
• Take the banana and dip it in the strawberry yoghurt—so it’s covered completely.
• Roll bananas in Otees. The Otees will stick to the yoghurt. Place the bananas on wax paper.
• Leave in the freezer until frozen.

2 Zooty Fruity
What you’ll need:
• Orange juice
• Berry juice
• Ice lolly sticks
What you do:
• Fill your mould with 1/2 the juice you want at the top.
• Place in the fridge until completely frozen. Add the second juice and cover the mould with tin foil. Make a small opening at the top for your ice lolly stick. Insert stick through the slit in the tin foil, so it stands up straight.
• Leave in the freezer until frozen.

3 Strawberry-licious
What you’ll need:
• 5 to 6 strawberries
• 1 packet of strawberry or watermelon jelly
• Ice lolly sticks
• Chocolate chips
• Ice chips
• Ice lolly moulds
What you do:
• Chop strawberries finely (remove as many seeds as you can).
• Add ice chips.
• Ask a parent to help with preparing the jelly mixture and add it to the watermelon and ice.
• Put it in the fridge until it’s stable and gooey.
• Add the chocolate chips and stir again.
• Scoop your mixture into small plastic cups and add the ice lolly sticks.
• Leave in the freezer until frozen.

3 fun facts about ice lollies
• The ice lolly was originally invented by an 11 year old boy named Frank Epperson in 1905.
• Frank accidentally left a cup of homemade colddrink outside overnight. When he woke up the next morning, it was frozen around the stirring stick.
• Frank called it the Epsicle.
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS IN 3-D

The boogeyman, Pitch Black, wants to take over the world and it will take a special team to save the day. Enter the Guardians, a gang of holiday heroes led by Santa. Other members include E. Aster Bunnymund, the Tooth Fairy, the Sandman and Jack Frost.

The animators were inspired by lots of real locations. "Since Santa is a Russian Cossack warrior, we looked at Russian architecture like the Kremlin," art director Max Boas says. "His home in the North Pole is a giant wooden fortress. It is built by interlocking wood pieces, a bit like in the game Tetr"s."

For Tooth Fairy’s palace, located in Southeast Asia, the team turned to Thai architecture. “It’s made up of giant columns that represent the continents of the world. Within those continents are rings that are organised by country, city, street and house. Inside those are millions of boxes in which the fairies store the teeth,” Max says. IN THEATRES 7 DECEMBER 2012

WIN WITH CRAZY CONCEPTS

Visit the Crazy Concepts website to win a Bugy Ball Swing that you can hang from a jungle gym or tree. Go to crazyconcepts.co.za and find and click on the sun emblem on the Bugy Ball Swing page to enter. For queries, phone 021-850-0102.

WIN IT’S A SIX!

Ten lucky readers in Cape Town and Johannesburg will win a cricket coaching clinic’s prize worth R300 each at the Cricket School of Excellence. The school was founded in 1999 and has become one of South Africa’s leading cricket schools. The clinics run from 10 to 13 December 2012 and 7 to 10 January 2013. SMS “NGKcricket” your answer, name, age, e-mail address and preferred city to 33970. More information at www.cricketschool.co.za.

Question: In what year was the Cricket School of Excellence founded?

WIN WONDERBOOK™ AND THE BOOK OF SPELLS ON PS3

Wonderbook™ is a new peripheral for PS3™ which uses augmented reality technology to transform the world around you and bring mystery to your own living room. Book of Spells by J.K. Rowling provides students of Hogwarts™ with a safe environment in which to read, discover, learn and practise spells they already know and love. One reader will win a Wonderbook™ Book of Spells hamper with a, the PS3™ game, a wizardry kit and more. SMS “NGKSpells”, your name, age and e-mail address to 33970.

HINT: Upgrade all of Roo’s Proto-Tool functions with the Plumber Power reward by scoring 60 points.

*See page 47 for terms and conditions.
Laugh Out Loud

“THAT’S WHY YOU DON’T LET RHINOS BORROW YOUR SKATEBOARD!”

“I WONDER WHEN HE’LL LEARN TO SPEAK CAT!”

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

*FOR ALL COMPETITIONS AND GIVEAWAYS IN NG KIDS*

All entries must include your name, age, postal address, home telephone number, cell number, e-mail and any mandatory information specific to a competition, including answers to qualifying questions unless otherwise specified. • Prizes and giveaways cannot be transferred or exchanged for cash. • If you cannot meet any one of the entry requirements, the judges reserve the right to award the prize to a runner-up. • NG KIDS has the right to substitute the gift or prize with something of the same value. • The copyright of all entries, letters, photographs, artwork, SMSs and questions belongs exclusively to NG KIDS and NG KIDS reserves the right to edit and republish them in any media. • Winners may decline to have their name used in advertising or listed publicly. • Competitions and giveaways are open to anyone over 14 years or younger, except employees of Media24, sponsors and their agents or any company associated with the competition and their immediate families. • Where the competition prize is a holiday stipulating that it is for a certain number of adults and children, “children” will be taken to be under the age of 12, unless stated otherwise. • Unless specified only submissions or entries from South Africa are allowed. If winners reside outside of South Africa they may be liable for transport, courier or postage costs. • The winners will be notified telephonically and their names will appear in NG KIDS magazine. • The judges’ decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. • Allow two months for delivery of prizes from winners’ announcement in NG KIDS. • The prizes will be awarded to correct entries drawn randomly by computer after the closing date, except when there is judging involved or it is stated otherwise. • If the winner cannot be contacted within two weeks after the closing date, an alternative winner will be drawn. • All competition entry SMSs are charged at R1,50 each. Free minutes and SMS bundles do not apply. You can enter as many times as you like, unless stated otherwise. • By entering competitions online, via e-mail or SMS, you agree to receive future correspondence from NG KIDS magazine and the prize sponsors. You can opt out at any stage by sending an e-mail containing your name, surname, cell number and e-mail address with the subject line “opt out” to optout@ngkids.co.za. • The entrant accepts that entry to the competition does not constitute a contract or any form of legal commitment between the entrant and NG KIDS, Media24 or the National Geographic Society. • NG KIDS will not assume liability for any ambiguity, error, oversight or omission whether negligent or otherwise which may be committed by any employee of the participating magazine, their agents or associates in respect of competitions or giveaways published in the magazine or online. • Entry signifies acceptance of the rules. • Competitions in the December 2012 issue of NG KIDS close on 18 December 2012 unless otherwise specified.

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Children must ask an adult’s permission. SMSs charged at R1 • Free minutes and SMS bundles do not apply. • Offer valid until 18 December 2012. • All new and renewed subscribers will qualify for the R100 discount. • Offer is not valid in conjunction with the Vitality offer. • See full terms and conditions above for all competitions and giveaways in NG KIDS. • Discovery Vitality offer valid only for active Vitality members. • All subscribers agree to receive future correspondence from NG KIDS. You can opt out at any stage by sending an e-mail containing your name, surname, cell number and e-mail address with the subject line “opt out subscriber” to optout@ngkids.co.za. • Offer is open to SA addresses only. Call 021-405-1905 for international rates. • NG KIDS CLUB benefits are strictly for South African residents. • Staff of Media24 (Ltd) and their immediate family, sponsors and their advertising agencies are not entered into monthly subscriber competitions.

**SAMSONITE COMPETITION**

The competition opens on 21 November and closes on 18 December 2012. • See full terms and conditions for all competitions and giveaways in NG KIDS. • Win one of ten Samsonite kids luggage sets valued at R2 000 each. The set consists of an upright 50cm suitcase, a backpack, a purse and umbrella. You can enter as many times as you like.

**WINNERS FROM NG KIDS SEPTEMBER ISSUE**

JAN BRAAT’S FIREWORKS: Rheo Govender (Durban), Joel Govender (Durban), Shaun Von Der Linde (Pretoria)

FLIX FLAK WATCHES: Jarrod Gratz (East London), Abdullah D Wavda (KZN), Joe Germishuys (Stellenbosch), Neelan Kargie (Johannesburg), Matthew Nienaber (Johannesburg), Kristel Mercier (Durban), Emma Oosthuizen (Stellenbosch), Brittany Kettle (Cape Town), Temicaa Beepat (Durban), Lea Renard (KZN)

LONDON 2012 GAMES: Jameel Modjalane (Johannesburg), JD Bester (Pretoria)

MAKE YOUR OWN T.REX: Tyla De Kock (East London), Mecah Smith (Pretoria)

BAKER STREET BOYS BOOKS: Daniel Mudge (Somerset West), Pascal Tostee (Durban), Kyle da Silva (Somerset West), Katia Chedrawi (Klerksdorp), Protea Louw (KZN)
KNOCK, KNOCK.

Who's there?
Hammond.
Hammond who?
Hammond eggs!

CARRIE: Ms. Hunt, would you get mad at me for something I didn’t do?
MS. HUNT: Of course not, Carrie.
CARRIE: Great, because I didn’t do my homework.

What did the pen say to the pencil?

A: So what’s your point?

You’ve got to be joking...

Why did the dog cross the road twice?

A: He was trying to reach a boomerang.

Answers

Turned into the funhouse (page 46)

Bonus: a caddie
torn out

Bonus now: com on the cab, Bangkok.

Magick now:o secateurs, my daddy.

Top now: pick them apples.

Where in the world? (page 42)

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