

# WORLD WAR 2







## THEMED PROGRAMME



### AIM

Travel back in time 80+ years to World War 2. Experience what it would have been like for a child evacuee, learn about one of the BB heroes of the war and have a go at codebreaking, as you explore life during WW2. This theme could be linked to Remembrance.

### ACTIVITIES

-  Packing For Evacuation
-  Spitfires
-  We Will Remember Them
-  Codebreakers
-  Boys' Brigade Heroes of the War
-  Battle of Britain

# WORLD WAR 2

## ➤ INTRODUCTION

World War 2 took place from 1939-1945 and was a battle between two sets of countries, the 'Allies' (Britain, USA, France, Russia, China) and the 'Axis' (Germany, Italy, Japan).

World War 2 started in 1939 with Adolf Hitler invading Poland, a country which Britain and France had promised to help protect.

During the war 40-50 million people died, making it the largest and bloodiest conflict in history.


## ? DID YOU KNOW?

- World War 2 lasted 6 years and one day.
- The Battle of Britain, between the German Luftwaffe and the Royal Air Force, was the first ever battle to be fought only in the air.
- The US joined WW2 in 1941 after their naval base in Pearl Harbor was attacked.
- Winston Churchill was Prime Minister for most of the war.
- We remember the lives of those who died at war on Remembrance Day (11<sup>th</sup> November).



## GET ACTIVE: PLAYING GAMES PACKING FOR EVACUATION


At the beginning of the war millions of children were evacuated from major cities due to the threat of bombing. Children would have to pack a bag, be placed on a train and sent to another part of the country to live with a new family. Explore what little items an evacuee was able to take with them with this game.

- 1  Download and print off the 'Packing for Evacuation' activity cards, or alternatively find and use the real items. Each team will need a set of cards / items.
- 2 Split the group into teams of roughly 4-5 max.
- 3 Place the cards / items at one end of the room and an obstacle course for each team in the middle of the room. The teams should be sat at the opposite end of the room to the card / items.
- 4 On GO, one member from each team should complete the obstacle course, collect a card / item from the packing list and bring it back to their team. Keep going until all the cards / items are collected. The first team to be 'packed for evacuation' (i.e. have all 12 of their cards / items) wins.


Afterwards spend some time looking and talking about these few basic items evacuees could pack. Discuss how the group would feel if they had to move to a different part of the country with just these items. What would they miss? If they were being evacuated now, what items from home would they choose?

## ? DID YOU KNOW?


- The order to evacuate was given just a day before the evacuations began, giving very little time for children to get prepared.
- In the first four days of September 1939, nearly 1.5m people were transported from towns and cities in danger from enemy bombers to places of safety in the countryside.
- 100,000 teachers helped to evacuate their pupils.
- Transport out of the cities was mainly via trains and buses, but some were evacuated on ships too.



GET CREATIVE




20 MINUTES



PREPARATION NEEDED

## GET CREATIVE: ARTY & CRAFTY SPITFIRES

The Spitfire was the most famous plane from World War 2, helping to give Britain a distinct advantage. Spitfires were quick and agile, making them perfect for fighting in the air. Design your own Spitfires and take them to the skies for a test run.

**Paper Spitfire:**  Download and print the Paper Spitfires template sheet. This is a camouflage sheet in the design of a spitfire. Colour in the camouflage, including the famous red and blue circles of the Spitfire. Then fold it into a paper aeroplane. Make sure to fold the paper with the colouring facing downwards. You may then need to finish off the plane once folded, colouring in any visible white areas.

**Gliders:** Purchase polystyrene planes which you can assemble and fly. Some craft stores / website sell blank ones you can decorate too.

Once you have you decorated / assembled the Spitfire, set up some targets (hoops) or landing strips (paper) to test out your Spitfires. Create a competition based on hitting the targets or furthest distance flown. Are they just as fast and agile as the real things?



GET INTO THE BIBLE



15 MINUTES



READY TO GO

## GET INTO THE BIBLE: CELEBRATING WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

During WW2 roughly 450,000 Britain's lost their lives directly to the war. 384,000 soldiers and 70,000 civilians. It's not fully known how many people died across the World, but estimates have it at roughly 40-50 million people. War comes at a huge price. Each year on 11th November, we pause to remember those who gave their lives in order for us to enjoy our freedoms today.

In the Bible Jesus says **“The greatest love a person can show is to die for his friends” (John 15:13)**. Jesus also showed us this, by dying on the cross for our sins. Sacrifice is about putting other people before yourself. The soldiers that have died during conflicts have done just that and this is why we spend time remembering them and giving thanks for their lives.

As a group spend some time reflecting and giving thanks for those lives that were lost during wars. This could be done by completing a Remembrance craft (ideas on the Programme Hub), writing a Remembrance prayer, holding a silence or even by taking part in a mini Remembrance service.



GET LEARNING



15 MINUTES



PREPARATION NEEDED

## GET LEARNING: PROBLEM SOLVING CODEBREAKERS

 Download and print the Pigpen Codebreakers activity sheet.

Codebreakers played a significant role in WW2 and are credited with helping to shorten the war by around 2-4 years. Germany thought their secret messages were unbreakable, but codebreakers based at Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes, cracked the messages and helped use the information to our advantage. A codebreaker was just as much of a hero during WW2 as the soldiers fighting on the front line.

Have a go trying to read and write in code, using our Pigpen codebreakers activity sheet. Pigpen uses symbols to replace letters, making the message look like a random collection of shapes. Do you have the skills that were needed at Bletchley park to crack codes and intercept secret messages?

  
GET LEARNING


  
15 MINUTES

  
PREPARATION NEEDED

## GET LEARNING: ME & MY WORLD

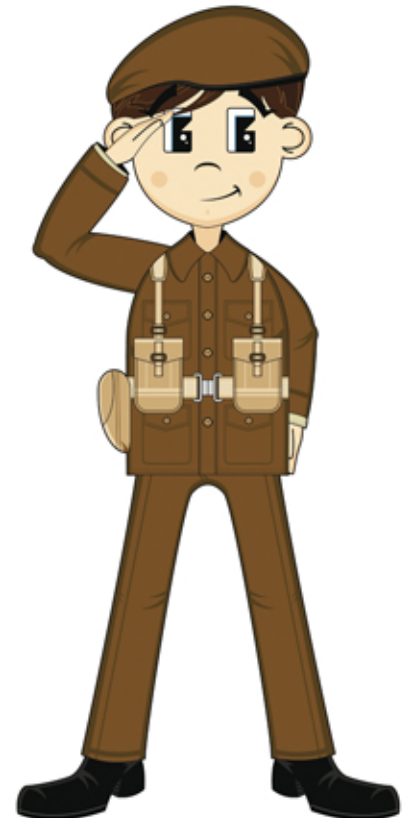
# BOYS' BRIGADE HEROES OF THE WAR

Explore the bravery and courage of Sergeant John Hannah VC, an airman who risked his own life to tackle a fire on his damaged plane. A former member of The Boys' Brigade, Sergeant Hannah went on to gain the Victoria Cross – the highest award for bravery, given to members of the armed forces.

 Download the 'Boys' Brigade Heroes of the War' activity sheet. This takes you through Sergeant Hannah's story, but with some of the key words missing. Can you fill in the gaps? This activity can be completed in one of the below ways.

**Activity Sheets:** Give each member a copy of the activity sheet for them to work on, filling in the gaps. After a while go through the answers and see how everyone got on.

**Relay Game:** Cut out the word bank answers and leave them at one end of the room (a set for each team). Split the group into teams and sit them at the other end of the room. Read out the story, stopping at the end of each sentence. For each blank, one person from each team should run to their word bank words and try to find the correct answer. The first team back with the correct words gains a point. The team with the most points at the end wins.



  
GET ACTIVE

  
10 MINUTES

  
IN THE CUPBOARD

## GET ACTIVE: PLAYING GAMES

# BATTLE OF BRITAIN

A game themed around the Battle of Britain and two of the most famous planes of WW2 – Spitfires and Hurricanes.

- 1 Split the group in half, with each half standing at different ends of the meeting space. Give one half the role of 'Spitfires' and the other half 'Hurricanes'. Leaders should be dotted around the room with soft balls.
- 2 A leader should call out one of the following commands.
 

**Spitfires:** All those who are spitfires should try to make it from one end of the room to the other without being hit enemy fire (a ball thrown by leaders). Any planes hit are out of the game.

**Hurricanes:** All those who are hurricanes should try to make it across the room without being hit. Any planes hit are out of the game.

**Battle of Britain:** All players (Spitfires & Hurricanes) should make it to the opposite side to where they are standing without being hit. If Spitfires and Hurricanes are stood at opposite ends of the room when this command is given, this will mean 'planes' will have to carefully navigate the skies without banging into each other. Any planes that collide are out of the game too.
- 3 Continue playing until only one person is left. They are the winner. Play a second round, but this time you could select a couple of children to help throw the balls at the planes.





**GAS MASK**



**SOCKS & PANTS**



**PAJAMAS**



**PLIMSOLES**



**CHANGE OF CLOTHES**



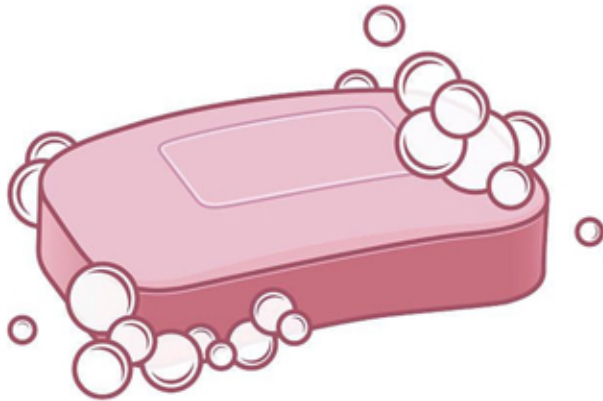
**TOOTHBRUSH**



**COMB**



**TOWEL**



**SOAP**



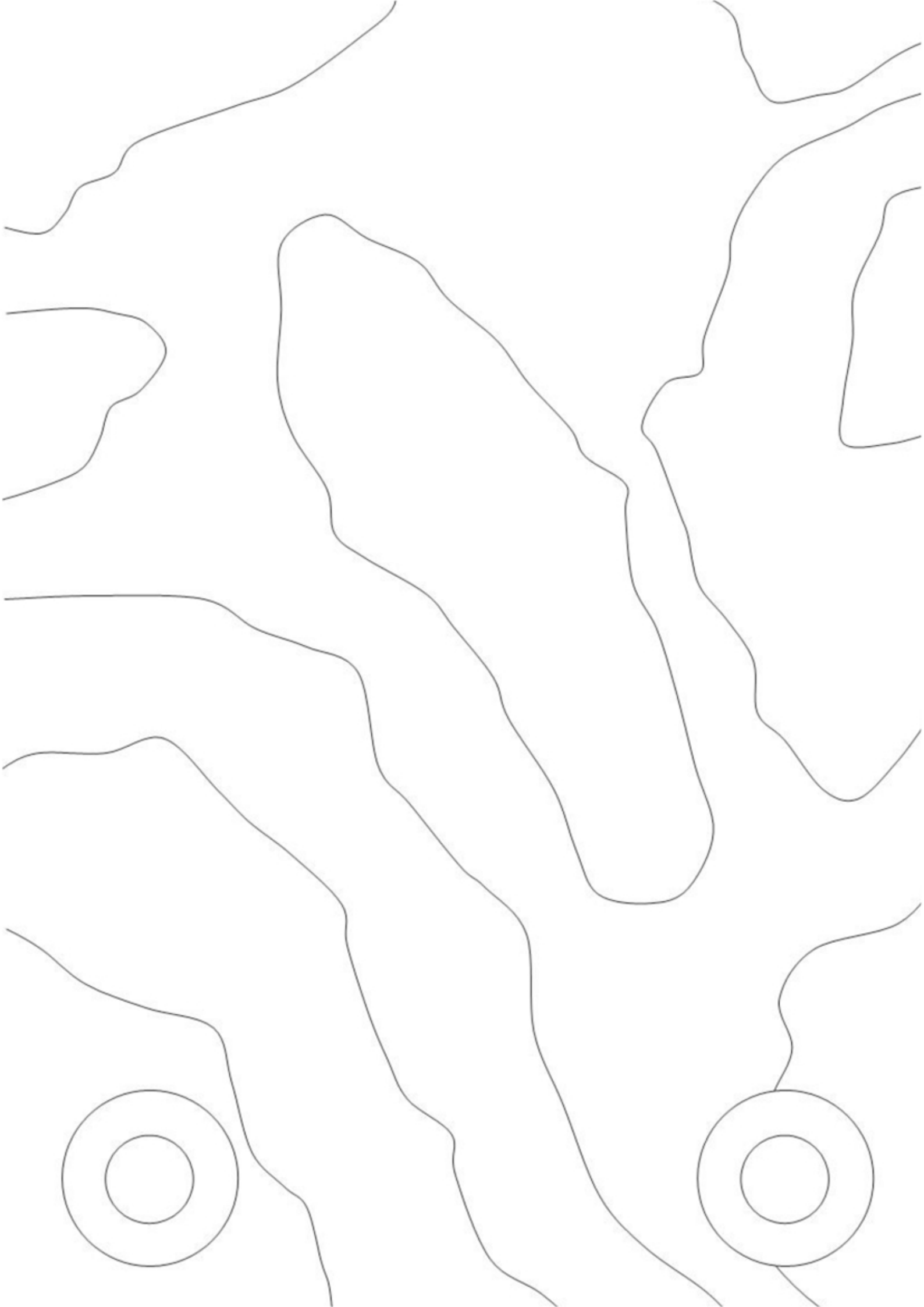
**FACE FLANNEL**



**6 HANDKERCHIEFS**



**COAT**







# BB HEROES OF THE WAR: SERGEANT JOHN HANNAH

Sergeant John Hannah was a former Boys' Brigade member in the \_\_\_\_\_ Company. During the war he was the air gunner and \_\_\_\_\_ in an aircraft that was subjected to intense anti-aircraft \_\_\_\_\_ and received a direct hit.

A \_\_\_\_\_ started which quickly surrounded the cockpits, and as both \_\_\_\_\_ had been pierced, there was high risk of the fire spreading dangerously. The rear gunner decided to \_\_\_\_\_ the plane, but Sergeant Hannah stayed behind to fight the fire for \_\_\_\_\_ minutes with just two extinguishers, beating the flames with his \_\_\_\_\_ when these were empty.

During this time \_\_\_\_\_ of rounds of ammunition exploded in all directions and he was almost \_\_\_\_\_ by the intense heat and fumes. The fire became an inferno and was so hot that some of the aluminium sheet metal on the \_\_\_\_\_ of the cockpit melted away.

Working under these conditions, which caused burns to his \_\_\_\_\_, Sergeant Hannah succeeded in extinguishing the fire. This airman displayed \_\_\_\_\_, coolness and devotion to duty of the highest order and by his action in remaining and successfully extinguishing the fire under conditions of the greatest danger and difficulty, enabled the pilot to \_\_\_\_\_ the aircraft back at its base.

\_\_\_\_\_ old at the time of his Victoria Cross action, Hannah was the \_\_\_\_\_ recipient of the medal for aerial operations and the youngest for the Second World War.



## WORD BANK

10	Courage	Floor	Petrol Tanks
18 Years	Evacuate	Gunfire	Thousands
237 <sup>th</sup> Glasgow	Face & Eyes	Land	Wireless Operator
Blinded	Fire	Log Book	Youngest

<b>10</b>	<b>Floor</b>
<b>18 Years</b>	<b>Gunfire</b>
<b>237<sup>th</sup> Glasgow</b>	<b>Land</b>
<b>Blinded</b>	<b>Log Book</b>
<b>Courage</b>	<b>Petrol Tanks</b>
<b>Evacuate</b>	<b>Thousands</b>
<b>Face &amp; Eyes</b>	<b>Wireless Operator</b>
<b>Fire</b>	<b>Youngest</b>

# BB HEROES OF THE WAR: SERGEANT JOHN HANNAH

Sergeant John Hannah was a former Boys' Brigade member in the **237<sup>th</sup> Glasgow** Company. During the war he was the air gunner and **Wireless Operator** in an aircraft that was subjected to intense anti-aircraft **Gunfire** and received a direct hit.

A **Fire** started which quickly surrounded the cockpits, and as both **Petrol Tanks** had been pierced, there was high risk of the fire spreading dangerously. The rear gunner decided to **Evacuate** the plane, but Sergeant Hannah stayed behind to fight the fire for **10** minutes with just two extinguishers, beating the flames with his **Log Book** when these were empty.

During this time **Thousands** of rounds of ammunition exploded in all directions and he was almost **Blinded** by the intense heat and fumes. The fire became an inferno and was so hot that some of the aluminium sheet metal on the **Floor** of the cockpit melted away.

Working under these conditions, which caused burns to his **Face & Eyes**, Sergeant Hannah succeeded in extinguishing the fire. This airman displayed **Courage**, coolness and devotion to duty of the highest order and by his action in remaining and successfully extinguishing the fire under conditions of the greatest danger and difficulty, enabled the pilot to **Land** the aircraft back at its base.

**18 Years** old at the time of his Victoria Cross action, Hannah was the **Youngest** recipient of the medal for aerial operations and the youngest for the Second World War.



## WORD BANK

10	Courage	Floor	Petrol Tanks
18 Years	Evacuate	Gunfire	Thousands
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