Semaphore System

Description:

Students learn to spell different words using the semaphore system with flags and movement. Children can get other members of the family to guess the word they have spelled.

30 – 60 MINS | MEDIUM | AGES 8 - 10

ACTIVITY TYPE: CRAFT/GAME

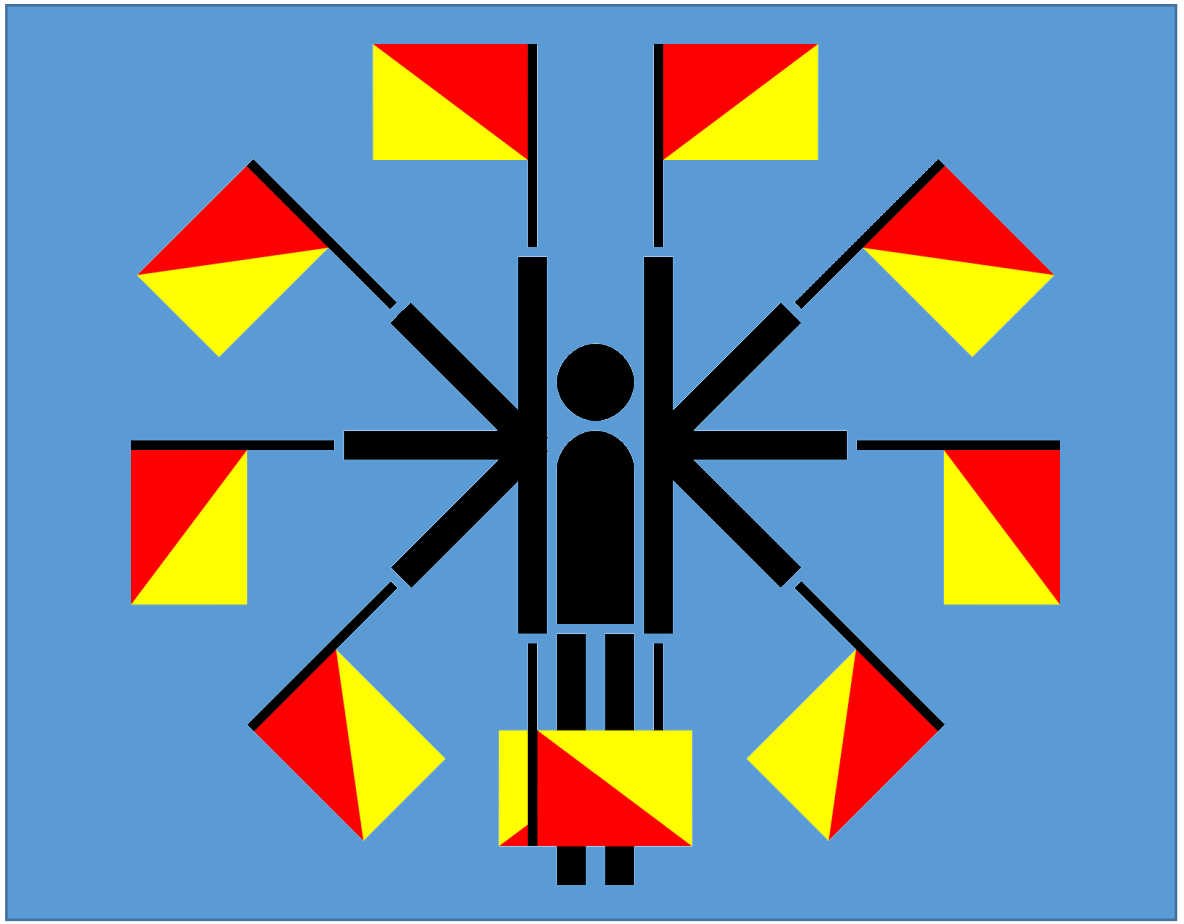

Image source: Clker-Free-Vector-Images/ Pixabay

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You will need:

- Red and yellow coloured paper
- Scissors and sticky tape
- 2 x thin wooden sticks
- Semaphore flags alphabet guide

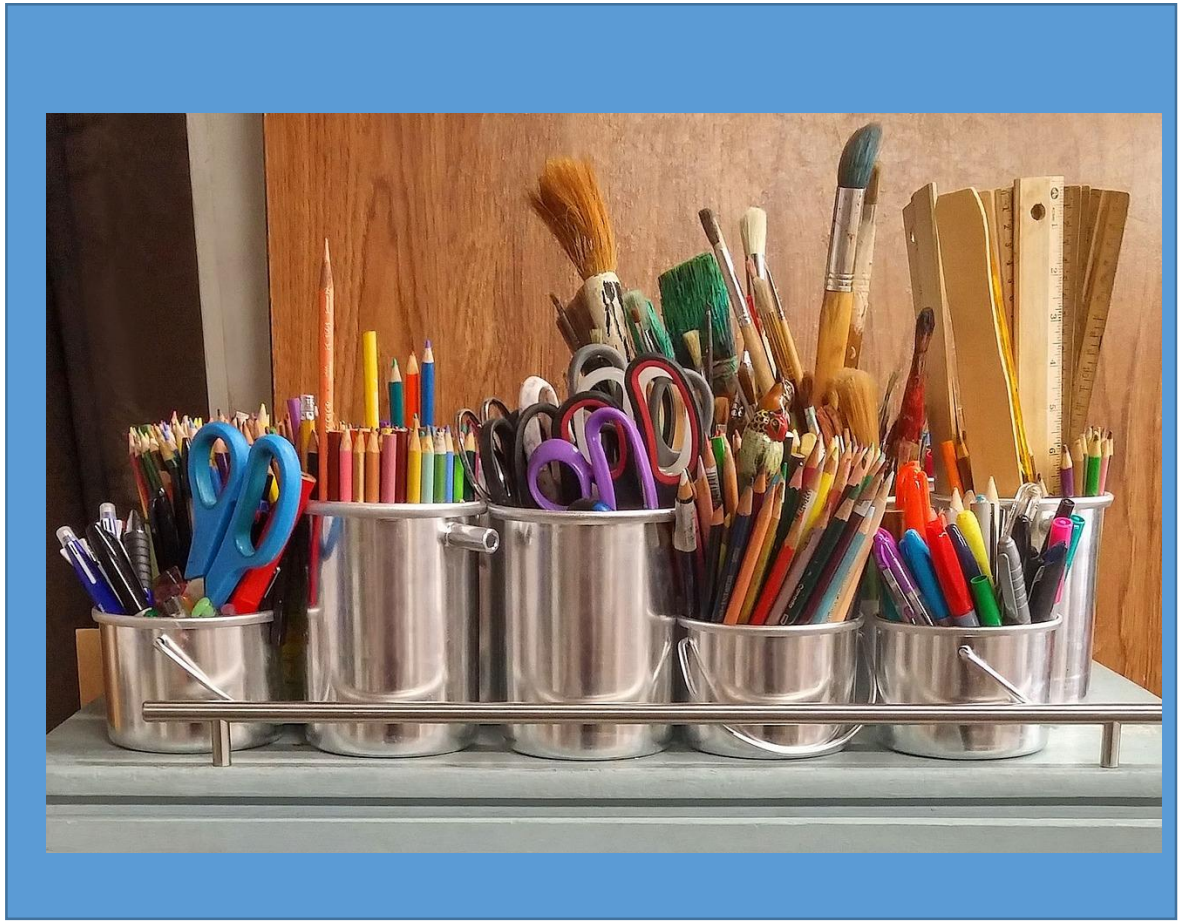

Image source: DevilsApricot/ Pixabay

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About the activity:

Children will learn about semaphore signals and spell different words using this system.

They will be involved in making two Semaphore flags before learning how to spell different letters using these signals.

In the end, children will spell a word using the Semaphore alphabet and see whether family members can guess the correct answer.

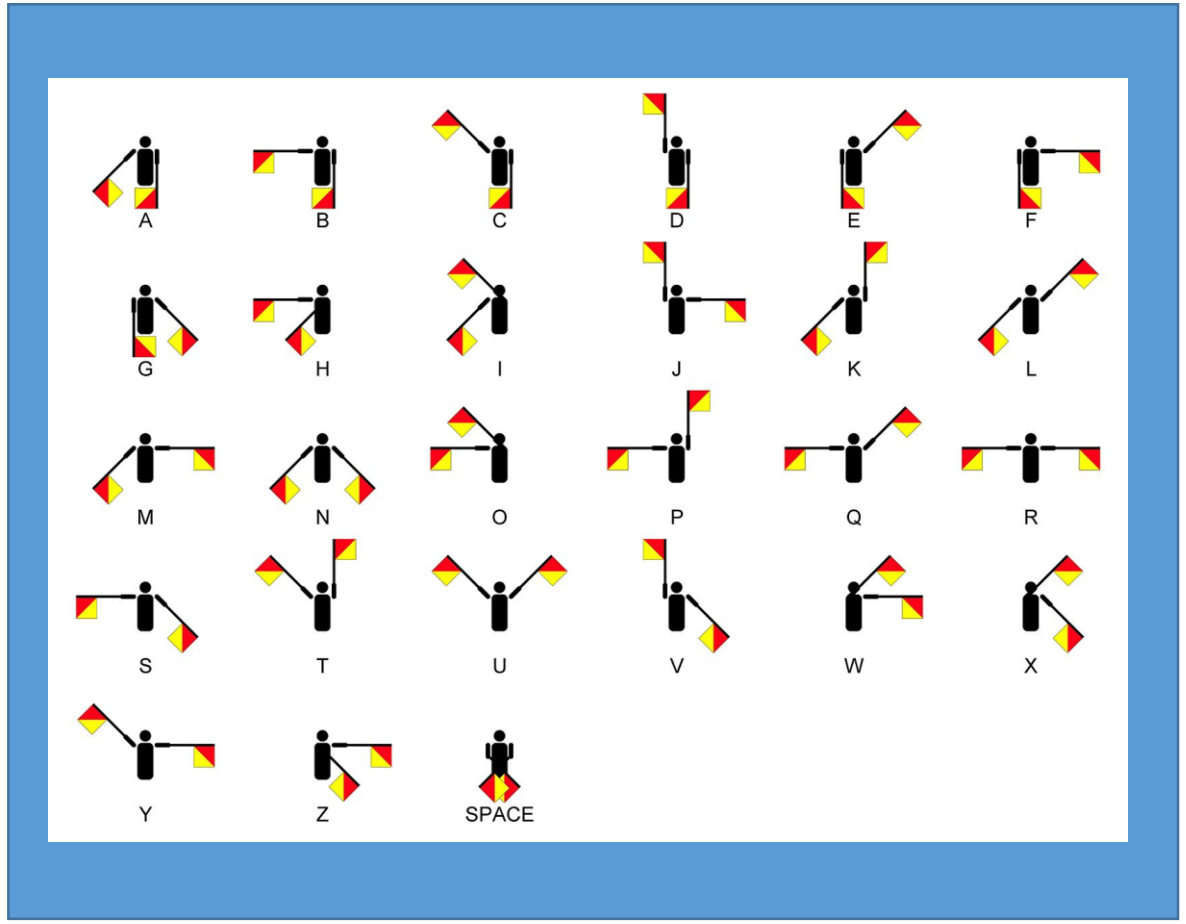

Image source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Semaphore_Signals_A-Z.jpg

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Semaphore flag system, what's that?

- The Semaphore flag system is a method of communication used to convey messages at a distance by making different visual signals with hand held flags.
- The person conveying the message holds a small red and yellow flag in each hand and moves these into different positions to spell letters and numbers.
- This system is used by the Navy to help them communicate.

Image source: 12019/ Pixabay

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Let’s get started…

1

- To begin with, students need to make a set of flags similar to those in the picture to the right.
- Using the coloured paper, children cut 2 triangles out of each colour. Stick together with sticky tape to make a rectangle.
- Children stick the short side of the rectangle onto the wooden stick.

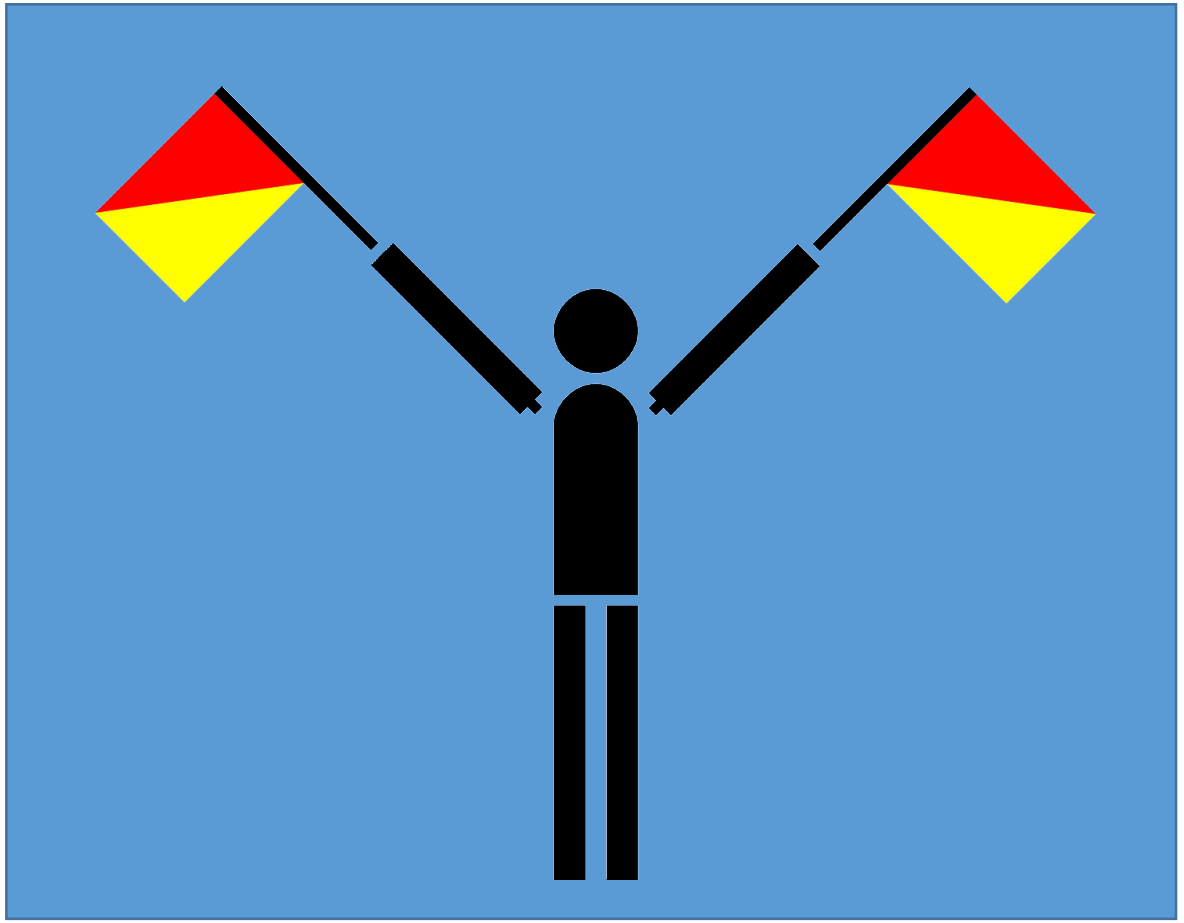

Image source: Clker-Free-Vector-Images/ Pixabay

Good tip: If you don’t have access to coloured paper, children can always paint or colour white paper to use instead.

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What's next…

2

- Using the Semaphore flags alphabet guide for reference, students begin to learn how to make different letters using the flags they made in step 2.

Good tip: Parents might like to discuss the images in relation to left and right movements with your child prior to beginning.

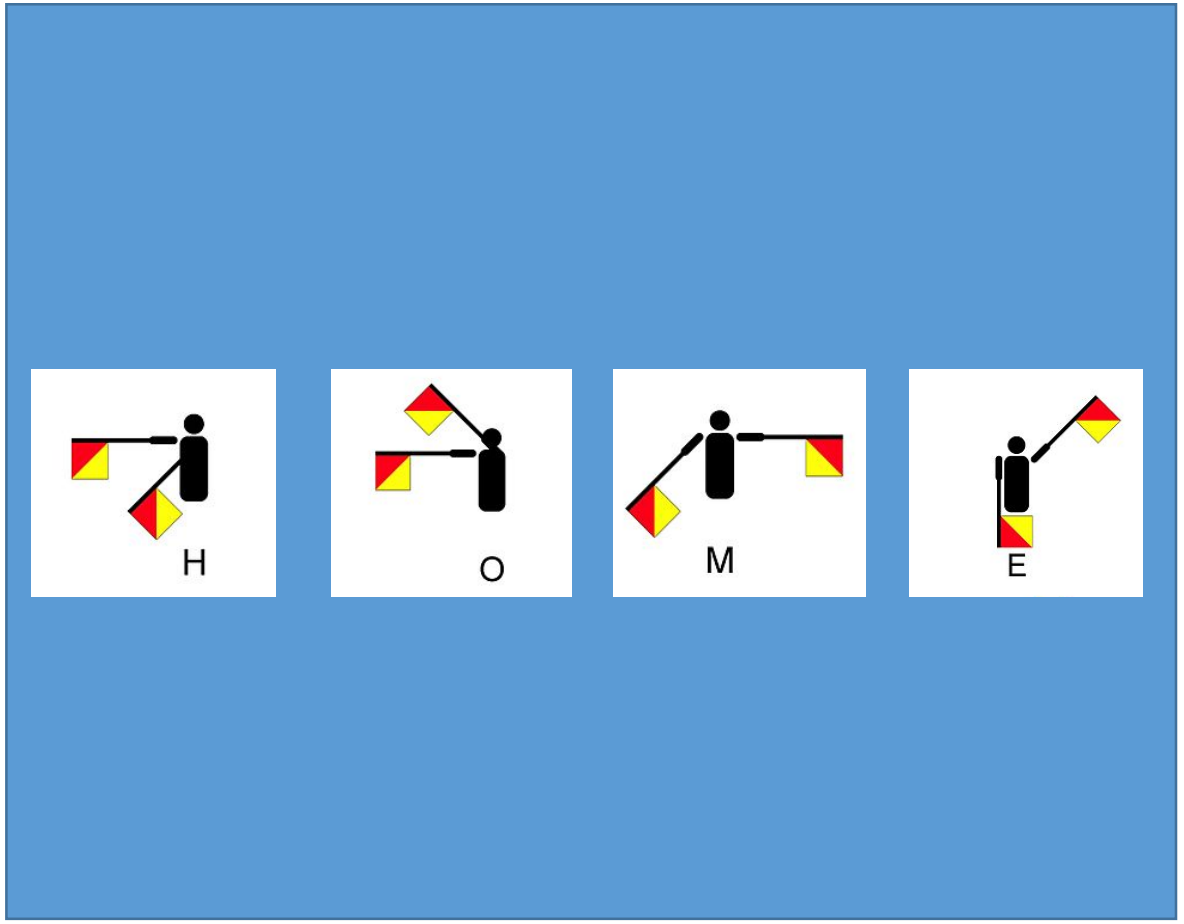

Image source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Semaphore_Signals_A-Z.jpg

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Congratulations…

3

- Choose a word that you would like to spell. Practice the movements with the flags made in step 1.
- In front of the family or a friend, spell out each letter slowly and see who can be the first to guess the word.

Good tip: Families might like to play this game a bit like Charades where participants take turns at spelling and guessing.

Image source: Wokandapix/ Pixabay

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Resources

- Semaphore flags alphabet guide

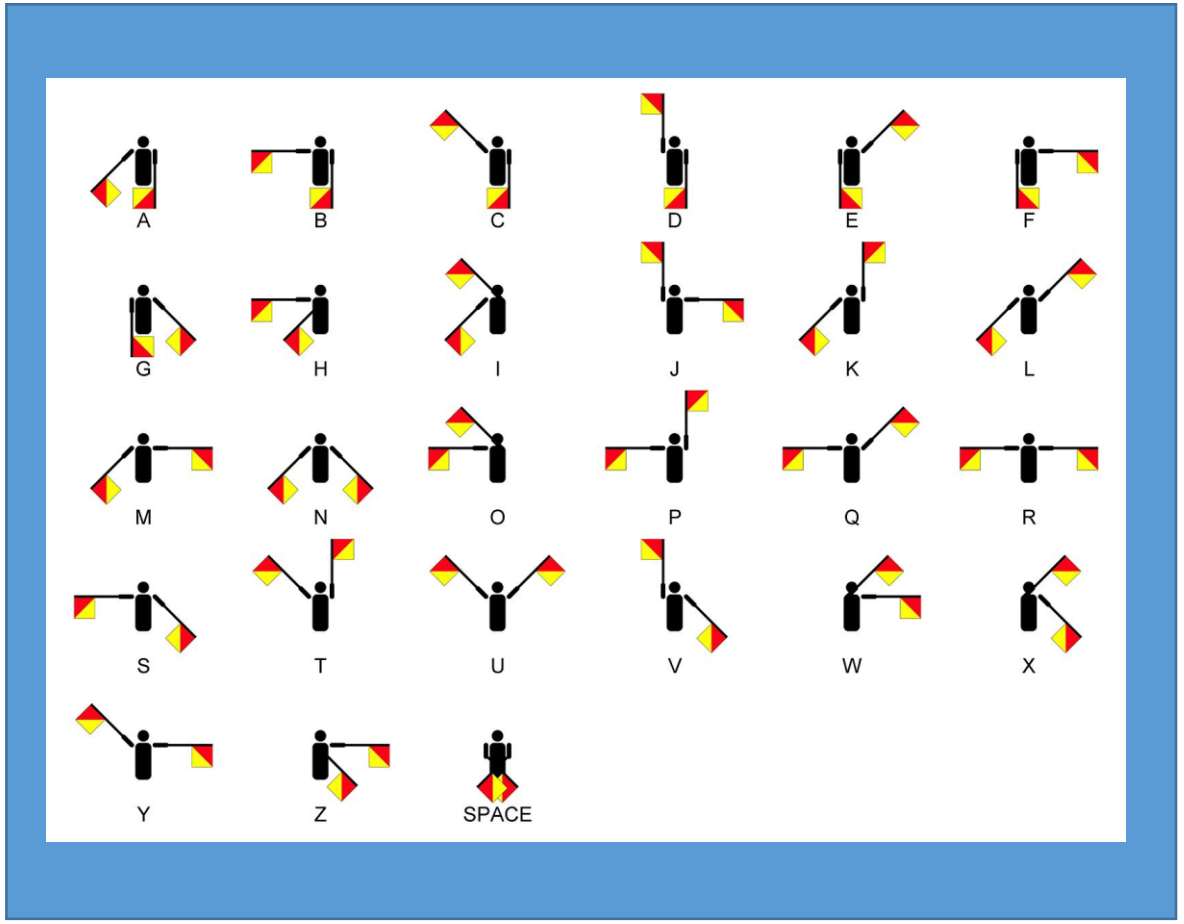

Image source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Semaphore_Signals_A-Z.jpg

Please note: a regular sized PDF version can be downloaded separately from the link above

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Why we are learning about this …

- "In Digital Technologies, discrete representation of information using number codes. *Data* may include characters (for example, alphabetic letters, numbers and symbols), images, sounds and/or instructions that, when represented by number codes, can be manipulated, stored and communicated by *digital systems*. For example, characters may be represented using *ASCII* code or images may be represented by a *bitmap* of numbers representing each 'dot' or *pixel."*
  (Source: https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/technologies/digital-technologies/)

- It is important that students recognise that there are different types of data in our world and that this data can be represented in a range of ways, for example, characters, images, sounds etc. Students should have the opportunity to explore different codes and symbols that can represent data.

- This activity enables children to encode a letter or word using the Semaphore alphabet system which is another way of representing data. Students also have the chance to decode this communication system to guess the secret word.

To find out more … https://www.digitaltechnologieshub.edu.au/teachers/australian-curriculum/sequencing-the-curriculum

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