

KS3 Science, Years 7 and 8

Curriculum map

A two-year sequence for the national curriculum in England: 24 units, 144 sixty-minute lessons, 64 practicals and 48 end-of-unit tests, with question-level markbooks.

What this map shows

- The two-year overview, half-term by half-term (page 2).
- Every unit: what it teaches, its six lessons, its practicals and the programme-of-study statements it covers (pages 3 to 8).
- All 64 practicals and how assessment works (page 9).
- What the full course contains and how a department or school licence works (page 10).

How the two years split the programme of study

- **Year 7** teaches 95 of the 156 statements in the KS3 science programme of study and introduces exothermic and endothermic reactions.
- **Year 8** teaches the statements Year 7 left and revisits Year 7 ideas it builds on. Eight statements are left for Year 9 on purpose: skeleton and muscles, recreational drugs, natural selection, extinction and biodiversity, and ceramics, polymers and composites.
- Each Year 8 lesson names the Year 7 lessons it builds on, so the two years work as one course.

How it was made, and who has not checked it yet

The lessons, questions, practicals, diagrams and markbooks were produced with AI tools to a detailed brief, mapped to the national curriculum and checked by machine: every quantitative answer was recomputed with unit checks, test totals were reconciled with the mark schemes, and a second AI model reviewed every unit for accuracy and practical safety. The author spot-checked a sample of the wording. **A qualified science teacher has not yet reviewed the files for safety or accuracy, and nor has a school technician or RSE lead.** Practical guidance is a starting point, not a risk assessment: check every practical against your school's risk assessments and CLEAPSS guidance.

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Two-year overview

Each unit is six 60-minute lessons plus a test lesson: two units per half-term, 36 teaching weeks a year. Colours show the strand.

Half-term	Year 7	Year 8
Autumn 1	1 Thinking like a scientist Working scientifically · Weeks 1-3	1 Investigating and evaluating evidence Working scientifically · Weeks 1-3
	2 Cells Biology · Weeks 4-6	2 Food and digestion Biology · Weeks 4-6
Autumn 2	3 Particles and their behaviour Chemistry · Weeks 1-3	3 Electricity: static and circuits Physics · Weeks 1-3
	4 Forces and motion Physics · Weeks 4-6	4 Breathing and respiration Biology · Weeks 4-6
Spring 1	5 Elements, atoms and compounds Chemistry · Weeks 1-3	5 The periodic table Chemistry · Weeks 1-3
	6 Energy Physics · Weeks 4-6	6 Photosynthesis and plant nutrition Biology · Weeks 4-6
Spring 2	7 Reproduction Biology · Weeks 1-3	7 Magnetism and electromagnets Physics · Weeks 1-3
	8 Acids and alkalis Chemistry · Weeks 4-6	8 Reactivity, extraction and energy changes Chemistry · Weeks 4-6
Summer 1	9 Sound and light Physics · Weeks 1-3	9 Inheritance and variation Biology · Weeks 1-3
	10 Ecosystems Biology · Weeks 4-6	10 Pressure and moments Physics · Weeks 4-6
Summer 2	11 Pure substances and separating mixtures Chemistry · Weeks 1-3	11 Earth, atmosphere and climate Chemistry · Weeks 1-3
	12 Space Physics · Weeks 4-6	12 Waves and energy transfer Physics · Weeks 4-6

Sensitive lessons carry notes for teachers: Year 7 lessons 7.1 to 7.4 (reproduction; check against your RSE policy), Year 8 lessons 2.3 (diet, body weight and eating), 4.3 (smoking, vaping and health conditions) and 9.1 (inherited characteristics and families).

Year 7 · Unit 1 Thinking like a scientist

Working scientifically · Autumn 1, Weeks 1-3

Pupils learn to work safely in a laboratory, use a Bunsen burner, and plan, carry out and evaluate simple investigations.

1.1	Staying safe in the lab	
1.2	Using a Bunsen burner	P1.1 Which flame heats water faster?
1.3	Variables and fair tests	
1.4	Measuring and recording	P1.2 Measuring reaction time with a ruler drop
1.5	Presenting data: tables and graphs	
1.6	Planning and evaluating an investigation	P1.3 How does wing length affect the fall time of a paper spinner?

National curriculum: WS1, WS3, WS5, WS6, WS7, WS8, WS10, WS11, WS12, WS13, WS14, WS15, WS16, WS18 · Tests A and B: 30 marks, 35 minutes

Year 7 · Unit 2 Cells

Biology · Autumn 1, Weeks 4-6

Pupils learn that all living things carry out seven life processes and are made of cells. They use a light microscope, calculate magnification and prepare a stained slide.

2.1	Living things and cells	
2.2	Using a light microscope	P2.1 Using a light microscope
2.3	Plant and animal cells	P2.2 Preparing an onion cell slide
2.4	Specialised cells	
2.5	Unicellular organisms	
2.6	Diffusion and organisation	

National curriculum: B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, WS7, WS8, WS10, WS11 · Tests A and B: 30 marks, 35 minutes

Year 7 · Unit 3 Particles and their behaviour

Chemistry · Autumn 2, Weeks 1-3

Pupils describe the properties of solids, liquids and gases and explain them with the particle model. They explain changes of state, including sublimation, and interpret a heating curve they measure themselves.

3.1	Solids, liquids and gases	
3.2	The particle model	
3.3	Changes of state	P3.1 The heating curve of water
3.4	Diffusion and Brownian motion	P3.2 Diffusion through warm and cold jelly
3.5	Gas pressure	
3.6	Density	P3.3 Measuring density

National curriculum: C1, C2, C9, C20, P50, P51, P52, P53, P55, P56, P57, WS5, WS8, WS10, WS11, WS17 · Tests A and B: 30 marks, 35 minutes

Year 7 · Unit 4 Forces and motion

Physics · Autumn 2, Weeks 4-6

Pupils describe forces as pushes or pulls arising from interactions, and draw force arrows. They measure weight and calculate it from mass, investigate friction and drag, and work out resultant forces to predict changes in motion.

4.1	Forces and interactions	
4.2	Mass and weight	P4.1 Measuring weight with a newton meter
4.3	Friction and drag	P4.2 Friction on different surfaces
4.4	Balanced and unbalanced forces	
4.5	Stretching springs	P4.3 Stretching a spring
4.6	Speed and distance-time graphs	

National curriculum: P12, P13, P14, P15, P16, P18, P19, P20, P22, P26, P27, P28, P59, WS6, WS8, WS10, WS11, WS12, WS17 · Tests A and B: 30 marks, 35 minutes

Year 7 • Unit 5 Elements, atoms and compounds

Chemistry • Spring 1, Weeks 1-3

Pupils meet the simple (Dalton) model of the atom, elements and their symbols, and the periodic table with its groups, periods, metals and non-metals.

5.1	Atoms and elements	
5.2	The periodic table	
5.3	Compounds and formulae	
5.4	Chemical and physical changes	P5.1 Physical or chemical change?
5.5	Word equations: burning, oxidation and decomposition	
5.6	Conservation of mass	P5.2 Conservation of mass: does the mass change?

National curriculum: C3, C4, C5, C6, C12, C13, C14, C22, C23, C24, C26, P54, P56, WS2, WS8, WS10, WS12 • Tests A and B: 30 marks, 35 minutes

Year 7 • Unit 6 Energy

Physics • Spring 1, Weeks 4-6

Pupils describe energy stores and the ways energy is transferred, and use the idea that the total energy is the same before and after a change.

6.1	Energy stores and transfers	
6.2	Conservation of energy	
6.3	Energy in food	P6.1 Comparing the energy in foods
6.4	Power and paying for electricity	
6.5	Heating, cooling and insulation	P6.2 Which material is the best insulator?
6.6	Energy resources	

National curriculum: P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P7, P8, P9, P10, WS3, WS6, WS10, WS11, WS12, WS17 • Tests A and B: 30 marks, 35 minutes

Year 7 • Unit 7 Reproduction

Biology • Spring 2, Weeks 1-3

Pupils learn the structure and function of the human male and female reproductive systems, the adaptations of sperm and egg cells, fertilisation, gestation and birth, the effect of the mother's lifestyle on the foetus through the placenta, and the stages of the menstrual cycle (without hormones).

7.1	Human reproductive systems sensitive: reproduction; check against your RSE policy	
7.2	Gametes and fertilisation sensitive: reproduction; check against your RSE policy	
7.3	Gestation, birth and the placenta sensitive: reproduction; check against your RSE policy	
7.4	The menstrual cycle sensitive: reproduction; check against your RSE policy	
7.5	Flowers and pollination	P7.1 Dissecting a flower
7.6	Seeds, fruits and dispersal	P7.2 Seed dispersal by wind

National curriculum: B20, B21, WS6, WS8, WS10, WS11, WS12 • Tests A and B: 30 marks, 35 minutes

Year 7 • Unit 8 Acids and alkalis

Chemistry • Spring 2, Weeks 4-6

Pupils meet everyday acids and alkalis and their hazards, make and use indicators, and measure acidity and alkalinity on the pH scale.

8.1	Acids and alkalis	
8.2	Indicators	P8.1 Making and using red cabbage indicator
8.3	The pH scale	
8.4	Neutralisation	P8.2 Neutralising an acid
8.5	Acids and metals	P8.3 Acids and metals: the test for hydrogen
8.6	Acids and carbonates	

National curriculum: C13, C15, C16, C17, C18, WS3, WS7, WS8, WS11, WS12 • Tests A and B: 30 marks, 35 minutes

Year 7 • Unit 9 Sound and light

Physics • Summer 1, Weeks 1-3

Pupils learn that sound is made by vibrations and travels as a longitudinal wave that needs a medium.

9.1	Sound and vibrations	
9.2	Speed of sound and echoes	P9.1 Measuring the speed of sound with echoes
9.3	Hearing, auditory range and ultrasound	
9.4	How light travels	
9.5	Reflection	P9.2 The law of reflection
9.6	Refraction, lenses and colour	P9.3 Refraction through a glass block

National curriculum: P30, P31, P32, P33, P34, P35, P36, P37, P38, P40, WS6, WS8, WS10, WS11, WS12, WS17 • Tests A and B: 30 marks, 35 minutes

Year 7 • Unit 10 Ecosystems

Biology • Summer 1, Weeks 4-6

Pupils describe habitats, communities and adaptations, then build and interpret food chains and food webs.

10.1	Ecosystems, habitats and adaptation	P10.2 Woodlice choice chamber
10.2	Food chains and food webs	
10.3	Interdependence and population changes	
10.4	Insect pollination and food security	
10.5	Toxic materials in food chains	
10.6	Sampling with quadrats	P10.1 Estimating a plant population with quadrats

National curriculum: B30, B31, B32, WS4, WS6, WS9, WS10, WS12, WS18 • Tests A and B: 30 marks, 35 minutes

Year 7 • Unit 11 Pure substances and separating mixtures

Chemistry • Summer 2, Weeks 1-3

Pupils learn the scientific meaning of a pure substance and how melting and boiling points identify pure substances.

11.1	Pure substances and mixtures	
11.2	Dissolving and solutions	P11.1 Dissolving: conservation of mass and solubility
11.3	Filtration and evaporation	
11.4	Purifying rock salt	P11.2 Purifying rock salt
11.5	Distillation	
11.6	Chromatography	P11.3 Paper chromatography of inks

National curriculum: C2, C7, C8, C10, C11, P50, WS6, WS8, WS10, WS11, WS12, WS17 • Tests A and B: 30 marks, 35 minutes

Year 7 • Unit 12 Space

Physics • Summer 2, Weeks 4-6

Pupils use weight = mass × gravitational field strength on other planets and the Moon, and describe gravity between the Earth, Moon and Sun.

12.1	Gravity and weight in space	
12.2	The Sun, Earth and Moon	
12.3	Seasons and day length	P12.1 Why the Sun's angle matters
12.4	The solar system and its scale	P12.2 A scale model of the solar system
12.5	Stars and galaxies	
12.6	The light year	

National curriculum: P22, P59, P60, P61, P62, WS2, WS6, WS8, WS10, WS17 • Tests A and B: 30 marks, 35 minutes

Year 8 • Unit 1 Investigating and evaluating evidence

Working scientifically • Autumn 1, Weeks 1-3

Pupils move on from Year 7's fair tests to the thinking behind real investigations. They write testable hypotheses and predictions, plan with continuous variables and judge resolution, accuracy and precision.

1.1	Questions, hypotheses and predictions	
1.2	Planning with continuous variables	P1.1 Pendulum: does length change the time for ten swings?
1.3	Resolution, accuracy and precision	P1.2 How does drop height affect bounce height?
1.4	Repeat readings, means and uncertainty	
1.5	Lines of best fit and relationships	
1.6	Sampling, correlation and evaluating claims	

National curriculum: WS1, WS2, WS4, WS5, WS6, WS8, WS9, WS10, WS11, WS12, WS13, WS14, WS15, WS17, WS18 • Tests A and B: 30 marks, 35 minutes

Year 8 • Unit 2 Food and digestion

Biology • Autumn 1, Weeks 4-6

Pupils learn what is in a balanced diet and why each nutrient is needed, test foods for starch, sugar, protein and fat, and calculate energy needs from fictional examples.

2.1	Nutrients and a balanced diet	
2.2	Testing foods for nutrients	P2.1 Food tests for starch, sugar, protein and fat
2.3	Energy needs and unbalanced diets sensitive: diet, body weight and eating	
2.4	The digestive system	
2.5	Enzymes as biological catalysts	P2.2 Amylase and the breakdown of starch
2.6	Absorption and gut bacteria	P2.3 A model gut with Visking tubing

National curriculum: B10, B11, B12, B13, B14, P1, WS6, WS7, WS8, WS12 • Tests A and B: 30 marks, 35 minutes

Year 8 • Unit 3 Electricity: static and circuits

Physics • Autumn 2, Weeks 1-3

Pupils explain static electricity as the transfer of electrons and describe the forces between charges and the idea of an electric field.

3.1	Static electricity and charge	P3.1 Charging objects by rubbing
3.2	Electric fields	
3.3	Current in series circuits	
3.4	Current in parallel circuits	P3.2 Measuring current in series and parallel circuits
3.5	Potential difference and ratings	P3.3 Measuring potential difference
3.6	Resistance	P3.4 How does the length of a wire affect its resistance?

National curriculum: P41, P42, P43, P44, P45, P22, WS7, WS8, WS10, WS11, WS12, WS17 • Tests A and B: 30 marks, 35 minutes

Year 8 • Unit 4 Breathing and respiration

Biology • Autumn 2, Weeks 4-6

Pupils describe the structure of the gas exchange system and how alveoli are adapted, and explain breathing with a pressure model, measuring lung volume. They study the effects of exercise, asthma and smoking.

4.1	The gas exchange system	
4.2	Breathing and lung volume	P4.1 Measuring lung volume
4.3	Exercise, asthma and smoking sensitive: smoking, vaping and health conditions such as asthma	P4.2 How does exercise affect breathing rate?
4.4	Aerobic respiration	
4.5	Anaerobic respiration in muscles	
4.6	Fermentation	P4.3 Yeast fermentation and temperature

National curriculum: B16, B17, B18, B26, B27, B28, B29, WS6, WS8, WS10, WS11, WS12 • Tests A and B: 30 marks, 35 minutes

Year 8 • Unit 5 The periodic table

Chemistry • Spring 1, Weeks 1-3

Pupils use the periodic table to find and explain patterns.

5.1	Groups, periods and patterns	P5.1 Magnesium and calcium in water: a group pattern
5.2	The alkali metals	
5.3	The halogens	
5.4	The noble gases and predicting from patterns	
5.5	Metal and non-metal oxides	P5.2 Testing the oxides of metals and non-metals
5.6	Balanced symbol equations	

National curriculum: C22, C24, C25, C26, C27, C13, C6, WS5, WS12 • Tests A and B: 30 marks, 35 minutes

Year 8 • Unit 6 Photosynthesis and plant nutrition

Biology • Spring 1, Weeks 4-6

Pupils write the word summary for photosynthesis and test leaves for starch to show that light and chlorophyll are needed.

6.1	Photosynthesis	
6.2	Testing leaves for starch	P6.1 Do leaves need light and chlorophyll to make starch?
6.3	Leaves adapted for photosynthesis	
6.4	Stomata and gas exchange in plants	P6.2 Looking at stomata
6.5	Light and the rate of photosynthesis	P6.3 Light intensity and pondweed
6.6	Roots, minerals and life on Earth	

National curriculum: B15, B19, B23, B24, B25, WS6, WS8, WS11, WS12 • Tests A and B: 30 marks, 35 minutes

Year 8 • Unit 7 Magnetism and electromagnets

Physics • Spring 2, Weeks 1-3

Pupils describe magnetic poles and materials and plot magnetic fields with compasses.

7.1	Magnets and magnetic materials	
7.2	Magnetic fields and field lines	P7.1 Plotting a magnetic field with a compass
7.3	Earth's magnetism and navigation	
7.4	The magnetic effect of a current	
7.5	Electromagnets	P7.2 What affects the strength of an electromagnet?
7.6	Motors and uses of electromagnets	

National curriculum: P46, P47, P48, P49, P22, WS6, WS8, WS11, WS12 • Tests A and B: 30 marks, 35 minutes

Year 8 • Unit 8 Reactivity, extraction and energy changes

Chemistry • Spring 2, Weeks 4-6

Pupils build the reactivity series from observations and use it to predict displacement reactions.

8.1	The reactivity series	
8.2	Displacement reactions	P8.1 Metal displacement on a spotting tile
8.3	Extracting metals with carbon	P8.2 Reducing copper oxide with carbon
8.4	Making a salt from a metal	P8.3 Making magnesium sulfate crystals
8.5	Exothermic and endothermic reactions	P8.4 Temperature changes in reactions
8.6	Catalysts	P8.5 Speeding up the decomposition of hydrogen peroxide

National curriculum: C14, C17, C19, C21, C28, C29, C10, C13, WS6, WS7, WS8, WS12 • Tests A and B: 30 marks, 35 minutes

Year 8 • Unit 9 Inheritance and variation

Biology • Summer 1, Weeks 1-3

Pupils learn that heredity passes genetic information from parents to offspring and use a simple model of chromosomes, genes and DNA.

9.1	Heredity sensitive: inherited characteristics and families	
9.2	Chromosomes, genes and DNA	
9.3	Discovering the structure of DNA	P9.1 Extracting DNA from fruit
9.4	Species and the differences between them	
9.5	Continuous and discontinuous variation	P9.2 Measuring variation in leaves
9.6	Genes, environment and variation	

National curriculum: B33, B34, B35, B36, WS2, WS9, WS11, WS18 • Tests A and B: 30 marks, 35 minutes

Year 8 • Unit 10 Pressure and moments

Physics • Summer 1, Weeks 4-6

Pupils calculate pressure as force divided by area and explain everyday examples.

10.1	Pressure on surfaces	P10.1 Pressure under blocks
10.2	Pressure in liquids	
10.3	Upthrust, floating and sinking	P10.2 Measuring upthrust
10.4	Atmospheric pressure	
10.5	Moments	P10.3 Balancing a metre rule
10.6	Levers, simple machines and work done	

National curriculum: P6, P17, P21, P23, P24, P25, P26, WS10, WS17 • Tests A and B: 30 marks, 35 minutes

Year 8 • Unit 11 Earth, atmosphere and climate

Chemistry • Summer 2, Weeks 1-3

Pupils describe the structure and composition of the Earth, explain how igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks form in the rock cycle, and investigate crystal size and rock properties.

11.1	The structure and composition of the Earth	
11.2	Igneous rocks and crystal size	P11.1 Cooling rate and crystal size
11.3	Sedimentary and metamorphic rocks: the rock cycle	P11.2 Testing rock samples
11.4	Earth's resources and recycling	
11.5	The atmosphere and the carbon cycle	
11.6	Carbon dioxide and climate change	

National curriculum: C31, C32, C33, C34, C35, C36, C37, WS12 • Tests A and B: 30 marks, 35 minutes

Year 8 • Unit 12 Waves and energy transfer

Physics • Summer 2, Weeks 4-6

Pupils observe water waves, reflection and superposition, then use $\text{wave speed} = \text{frequency} \times \text{wavelength}$.

12.1	Water waves and superposition	P12.1 Water waves in a tray
12.2	Wave speed, frequency and wavelength	
12.3	The electromagnetic spectrum	
12.4	Light as an energy transfer: eyes, cameras and solar cells	P12.2 Light intensity and a solar cell
12.5	Internal energy and convection	P12.3 Seeing convection currents
12.6	Efficiency and explaining energy changes	

National curriculum: P29, P39, P58, P7, P9, P10, P11, P35, P36, WS17 • Tests A and B: 30 marks, 35 minutes

Practicals and assessment

Every practical has a pupil sheet and a technician sheet (equipment per group, preparation, hazards, disposal). Year 8 practicals each have a low-equipment or data alternative.

Year 7: 30 practicals

- P1.1 Which flame heats water faster?
- P1.2 Measuring reaction time with a ruler drop
- P1.3 How does wing length affect the fall time of a paper spinner?
- P2.1 Using a light microscope
- P2.2 Preparing an onion cell slide
- P3.1 The heating curve of water
- P3.2 Diffusion through warm and cold jelly
- P3.3 Measuring density
- P4.1 Measuring weight with a newton meter
- P4.2 Friction on different surfaces
- P4.3 Stretching a spring
- P5.1 Physical or chemical change?
- P5.2 Conservation of mass: does the mass change?
- P6.1 Comparing the energy in foods
- P6.2 Which material is the best insulator?
- P7.1 Dissecting a flower
- P7.2 Seed dispersal by wind
- P8.1 Making and using red cabbage indicator
- P8.2 Neutralising an acid
- P8.3 Acids and metals: the test for hydrogen
- P9.1 Measuring the speed of sound with echoes
- P9.2 The law of reflection
- P9.3 Refraction through a glass block
- P10.1 Estimating a plant population with quadrats
- P10.2 Woodlice choice chamber
- P11.1 Dissolving: conservation of mass and solubility
- P11.2 Purifying rock salt
- P11.3 Paper chromatography of inks
- P12.1 Why the Sun's angle matters
- P12.2 A scale model of the solar system

Year 8: 34 practicals

- P1.1 Pendulum: does length change the time for ten swings?
- P1.2 How does drop height affect bounce height?
- P2.1 Food tests for starch, sugar, protein and fat
- P2.2 Amylase and the breakdown of starch
- P2.3 A model gut with Visking tubing
- P3.1 Charging objects by rubbing
- P3.2 Measuring current in series and parallel circuits
- P3.3 Measuring potential difference
- P3.4 How does the length of a wire affect its resistance?
- P4.1 Measuring lung volume
- P4.2 How does exercise affect breathing rate?
- P4.3 Yeast fermentation and temperature
- P5.1 Magnesium and calcium in water: a group pattern
- P5.2 Testing the oxides of metals and non-metals
- P6.1 Do leaves need light and chlorophyll to make starch?
- P6.2 Looking at stomata
- P6.3 Light intensity and pondweed
- P7.1 Plotting a magnetic field with a compass
- P7.2 What affects the strength of an electromagnet?
- P8.1 Metal displacement on a spotting tile
- P8.2 Reducing copper oxide with carbon
- P8.3 Making magnesium sulfate crystals
- P8.4 Temperature changes in reactions
- P8.5 Speeding up the decomposition of hydrogen peroxide
- P9.1 Extracting DNA from fruit
- P9.2 Measuring variation in leaves
- P10.1 Pressure under blocks
- P10.2 Measuring upthrust
- P10.3 Balancing a metre rule
- P11.1 Cooling rate and crystal size
- P11.2 Testing rock samples
- P12.1 Water waves in a tray
- P12.2 Light intensity and a solar cell
- P12.3 Seeing convection currents

Assessment

- Two parallel end-of-unit tests per unit (A and B), 30 marks in 35 minutes, with full mark schemes: 48 tests across the two years.
- Every lesson has a starter, a hinge question, support, core and stretch tasks and an exit ticket.
- A question-level analysis markbook per year (Excel, no macros, 35 pupils, one sheet per unit test, summary), plus a filled example class with fictional pupils. Year 8 adds a dashboard and a printable pupil report.

The full course, and the school licence

What the full two-year course contains

- 144 editable PowerPoint lessons (60 minutes each, timings in the speaker notes).
- Per unit: teacher guide, student sheets, answers, practical sheets, technician sheets, Test A, Test B, mark scheme and knowledge organiser (PDF).
- Two question-level analysis markbooks with filled examples, and a Start Here guide for each year (year plan, lesson structure, practical register, national curriculum coverage, sources).

Department and school licences

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Contact

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