

Our Planet Under Water!



*Let's save Tuvalu
and all disappearing island nations*

Tuvalu

Hugo and Mamaua are 10 years old. One lives in a big European city, the other in Tuvalu. Tuvalu is the world's 4th smallest country, 10 times smaller than Paris! It's an archipelago of 9 islands east of Australia and north of Fiji, on the other side of the globe – very far from Europe. The inhabitants speak Tuvaluan, with an alphabet of just 16 letters! Over the past several years, Tuvalu has been facing an ever-growing danger – the waves have been getting taller and high tides bigger and more frequent. The salty seawater comes up through the soil and keeps the rainwater from filtering into the earth. The salt destroys the crops. Trees fall over - so they no longer break the wind. Sand and soil are carried away by the waves and the coastline is slowly but surely being eaten away by erosion.

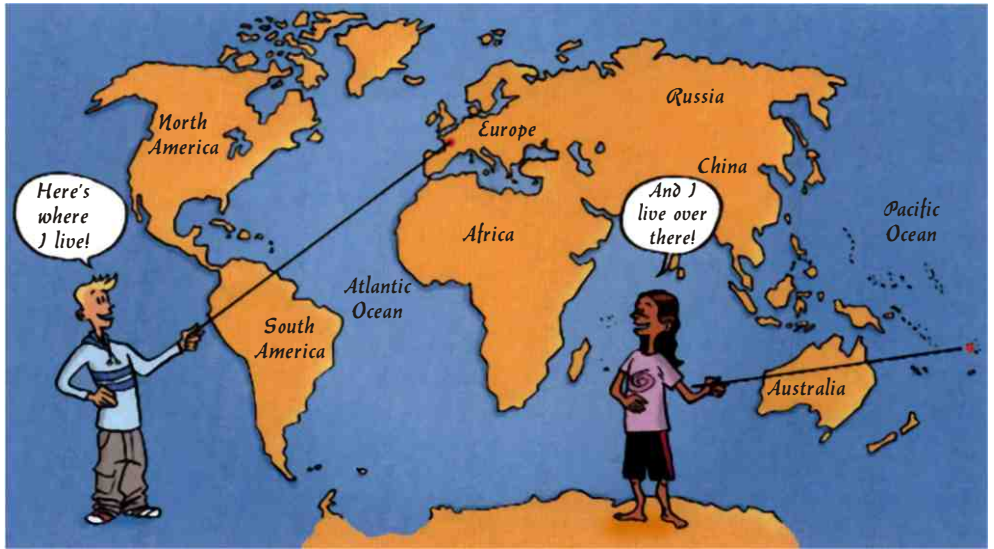
Because of climate change, if we don't do anything, the 11 000 Tuvaluans will soon be forced to leave their island home. They will be the earth's first entire nation of climatic refugees!

Climate change... what is it?

You don't have to be a rocket scientist to understand! The average temperature on earth is about 15°C (59°F) thanks to the greenhouse effect. Otherwise it would be -18°C (0°F) and we wouldn't be here! To stay warm, the earth lets the sun's rays enter the atmosphere. The rays hit the earth's surface and bounce back. Some are stopped by clouds or captured by greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide. That's why we can live comfortably on Earth. The problem is that our human activities produce too much greenhouse gases and the planet is starting to get really hot. That's what we call climate change. Glaciers are melting, the sea level is rising, floods and storms are becoming more frequent. The species which cannot adapt themselves are disappearing, and if we do nothing, large populations will be forced to migrate from one zone to another.

So who's to blame? All of us! ...with our airplanes, cars, factories, agriculture, heating, air conditioning ...

Acting together, with small daily gestures, we can all help limit the consequences of climate change and save Tuvalu...and the Tuvaluans. Hugo, Mamaua and Sib will show you what you can do!!



*What's happening to Tuvalu
Victims of me and you
They're slowly going to be
Under the waters of the sea*

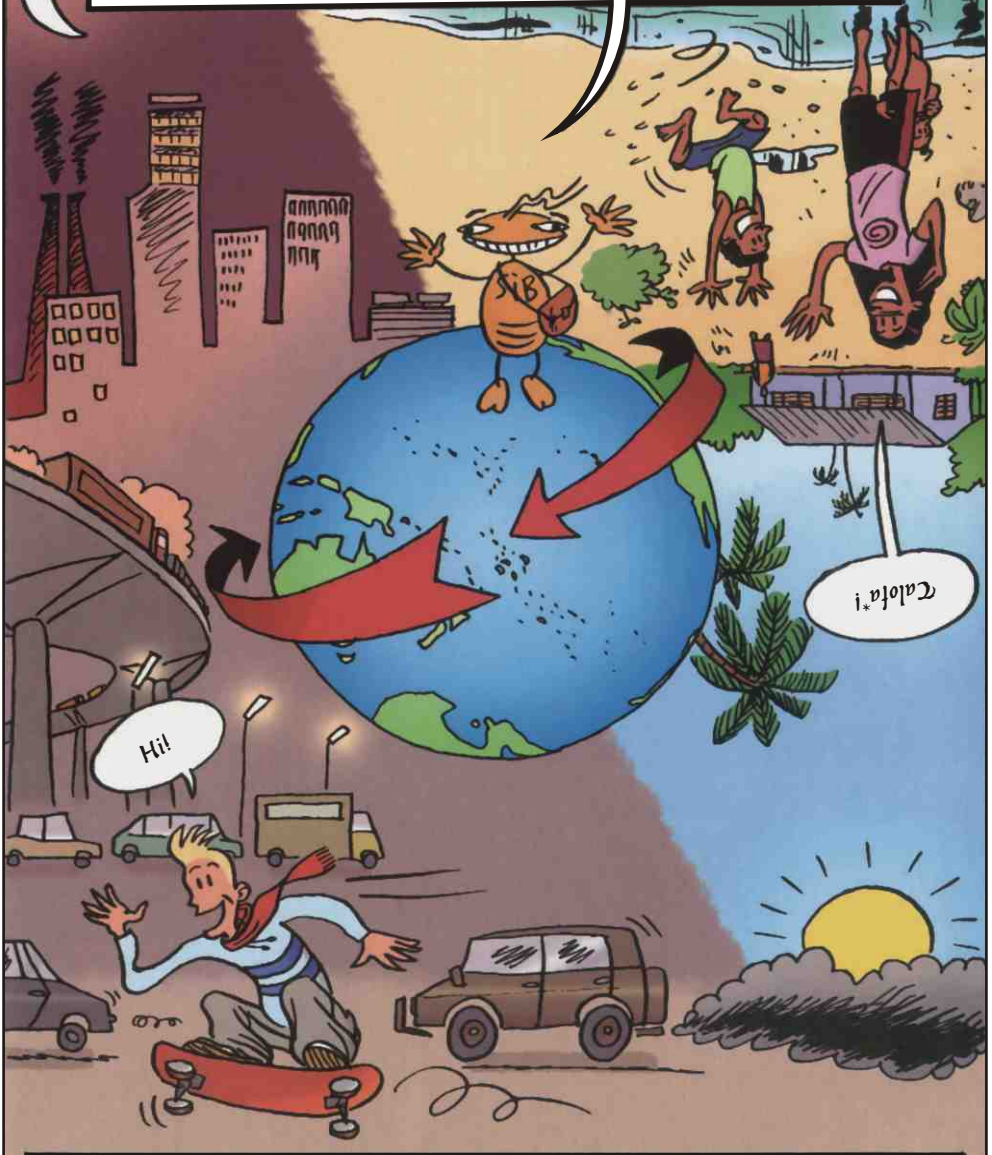
*As the waves hit the shore
None of us can ignore
That Tuvalu is sinking
What are we thinking?*

*If you really want to
You can save Tuvalu
With a solemn promise
Humanity can progress*

*Dreams can come true
We can save Tuvalu
Every act we do
Is for them, is for you*

(Original poem in French by Kent, English translation by Linda Cohen)

Hi! My name's Sib. I take care of the environment. We're going to spend a day with Hugu and Mamaua. Hugu lives in Paris, the capital of France; Mamaua lives in Funafuti, the capital of Cavalu. They live on completely opposite sides of the planet.



Calofa!

Hi!

When it's daytime for Hugu, it is night time for Mamaua and winter for one is summer for the other. As we begin our story, it's Christmas Eve for Hugu... And summer vacation for Mamaua!

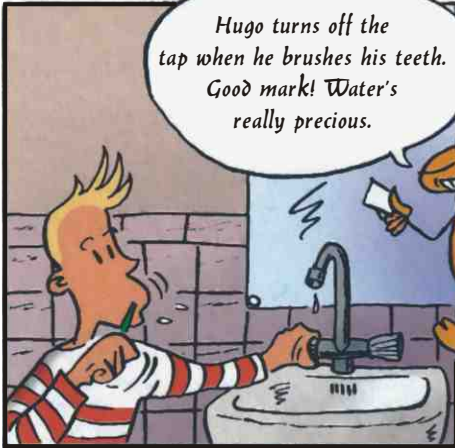
Now
pay close
attention!...
I'll give out
good marks or ...
Itching powder!



The day begins.



Now that
you've
understood
that
they live on
opposite
sides of the
globe,
let's put
everybody straight.
It'll be
much easier!



Hugo turns off the
tap when he brushes his teeth.
Good mark! Water's
really precious.



It's raining this morning in Funafuti.
Perfect for taking a shower under the drainpipe
...and all of the rainwater tanks are full.



Hugo
remembers to
switch off his
light...



...but he leaves
his computer on standby.
Wasted energy! Itching
powder for you!!



Mamaua helps her father feed the
animals with leftovers

Good mark!
And with the manure, we can
produce renewable energies.

For breakfast, Hugo's older sister loves small pots of yoghurt and cereal from small individual packets. Too much packaging!!



Mamua's brother has taken to bottled fruit juice and packaged donuts.



I prefer fresh orange juice and bread with jam! So delicious!



Me, I really like breadfruit and the toddy* my father makes.



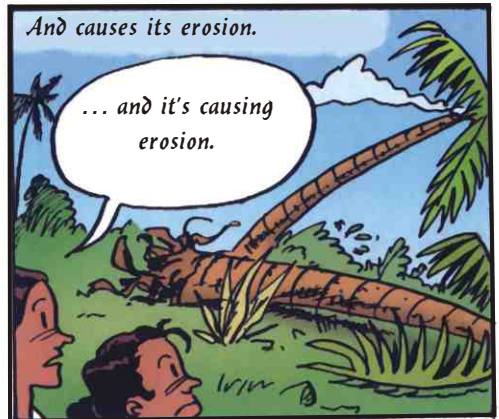
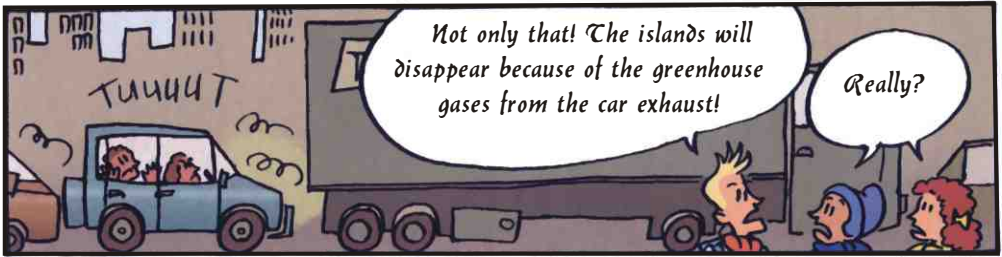
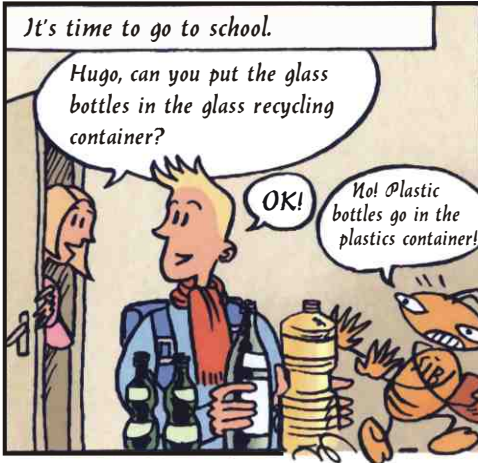
* toddy = coconut tree juice

Another day of high pollution! Children, elderly people and those with breathing problems are advised not to go outside in urban areas...



The wind has finally stopped blowing this morning. The small fishing boats were able to go out to sea, and the supply ship will be able to come in to the island this evening...





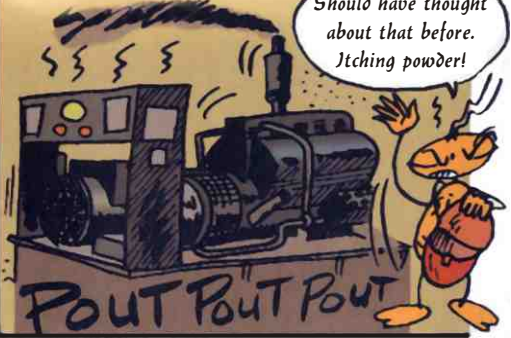
In Hugo's classroom, it's cold even next to the radiator.

Poorly insulated windows = itching powder.



In Tuvalu, electricity is produced from smelly diesel generators, but Mamaua's school will soon have solar photovoltaic panels and a wind generator.

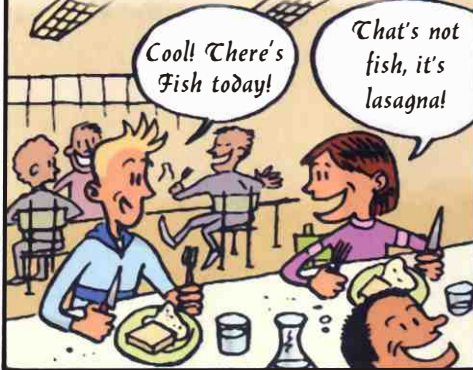
Should have thought about that before. Itching powder!



At noon, Hugo has lunch at the cafeteria.

Cool! There's Fish today!

That's not fish, it's lasagna!



In Tuvalu, mothers bring lunch to their children.



After lunch, the teacher takes Hugo's class to the municipal football field.



The football field in Funafuti is actually the airport runway. There are only three flights a week.

Have to move the goal posts quickly!



After the match, Hugo and his team mates splash each other in the locker room shower.



Careful, don't waste water, or ...

At Mamaua's school, a party is organized to celebrate summer vacation.



Grrrr! . Non-biodegradable wastes!

And here it's Christmas Holidays.



Do you keep your old notebooks?

Yeah...to draw on the other side of the pages. I recycle!

Mamaua and her friends collect the empty cans on the ground. They sell them to the recycler and earn some pocket money.



Two good marks!

Then, like all children everywhere, they go and have some fun.

Skates in the parking lot...



Splashing around in the pools of rainwater from the last storm.



Shopping for Christmas dinner. Not Hugo's favourite chore!

Aha! Compact fluorescent light bulbs!

Good mark!

HYPERGR

What? Plastic bags! A reusable shopping bag is a m-u-s-t!!



For Mamaua and her father, the arrival of the monthly supply ship is a major event.

In Funafuti, there's only one road and it's just 11 kilometres long! (7 miles)

Look! Our neighbour's coming to pick up his new vehicle!

A car does not make sense here! (Double itching power!)



Back home, at Hugo's house, the refrigerator is filled with food.

At Mamaua's home, it contains mostly fresh produce - fish and fruits, and boiled rainwater (so it's safe to drink).

Hopupop!
The Door!



It's school holiday. So this evening, Hugo is allowed to play with his video games.



Mamaua helps her mother prepare dishes for the evening fatélé*.

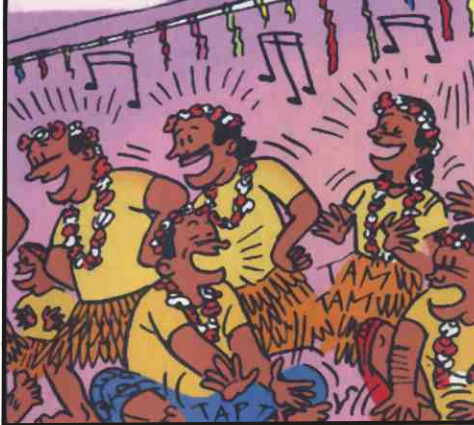


*Fatélé: a celebration with traditional dances and songs

Hugo's parents went to see a film. His older sister is taking care of him.



Fatélé!

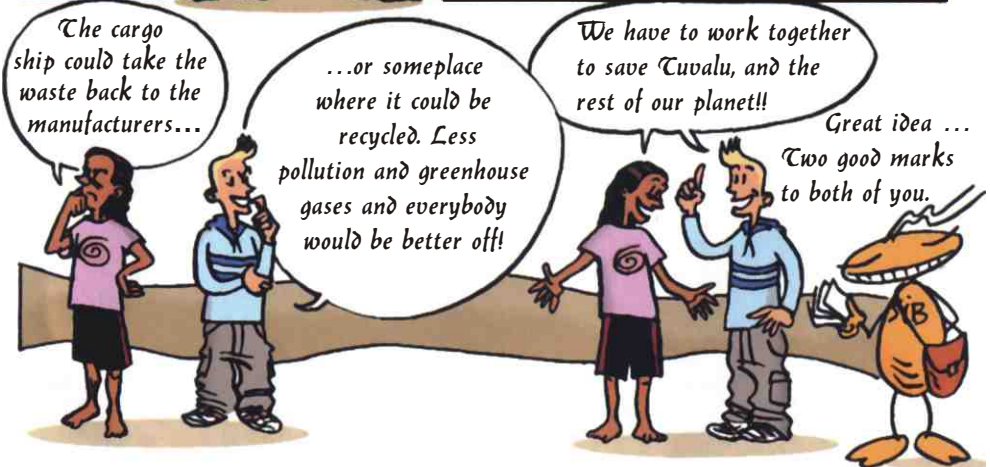


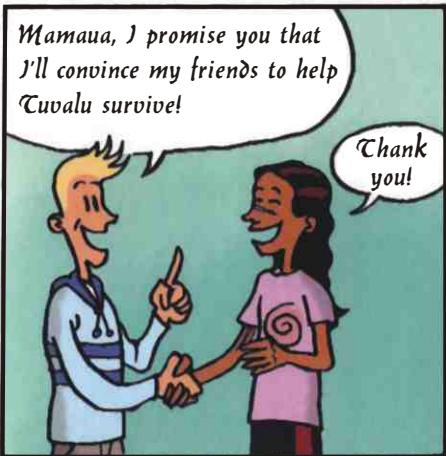
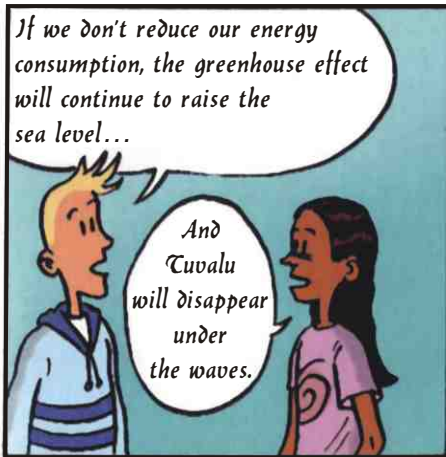
Then it's time to go to bed.



The day is over.

Hugo and Mamaua seem to have two different lives, but they also have a lot in common. They both like watching films on TV.





<<I just can't believe that I'll have to leave the country... that TUVALU could sink... I don't ever want to leave my home island. I love Tuvalu... and I...want to be here all my life...>>

<<Everybody in the world: look at a little place like Tuvalu. I know you need to develop your own resources but there must also be a thought about others in the Pacific, the low lying islands, not only in the Pacific but elsewhere in the world.>>



<< There's no place like home, never mind what we have here, I know the place is kind of going under but just come and visit and you'll see, it's a nice place but very soon you won't see anything unless you put on swimming goggles...>>

The Green Page

Rainwater reservoirs: You can collect rainwater in these reservoirs to use for drinking, bathing, washing dishes or clothes.

Container: These are big waste bins used for separating different kinds of waste.

New energies: Animal wastes (manure) can be used to generate energy. All one needs to do is put it into a container (digester). While fermenting, clean methane gas is created which can run all kinds of things: cars, electrical generators, etc.

Composting: The peels of vegetables and fruits can feed the soil in your garden. Make a big heap or put them in a big container, turn regularly over for several weeks, then place the mix at the base of the plants. They love it!

Wind generator: It's the modern version of wind mills. It's composed of a mast and three blades which are rotated by the wind, producing electricity.

Solar photovoltaic panels: The solar panels, often placed on roof tops of houses, use the sun rays to produce electricity.

Solar thermal panels: These panels use the sunrays to directly or indirectly heat water.

The sun, the wind, rivers, oceans, vegetables and the earth's heat are all inexhaustible sources of non-polluting and renewable energy.

Climatic refugees: Mamaua's homeland is in danger of disappearing under the sea because of the impact of climate change. She will have to leave her island and will become one of the first climatic refugees. Many countries with low-lying areas are threatened such as the Maldives, Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Brazil, parts of the USA and Canada, etc.

Did you know?

- A compact fluorescent lamp consumes 5 times less electricity and can last 8 times longer than an incandescent lamp.
- Household electrical appliances labelled as "highly energy efficient" consume up to 5 times less electricity than the others.
- Covering a saucepan while boiling water consumes 3 to 4 times less fuel.
- Everywhere in the world, billions and billions of plastic bags pollute lands and coasts. They kill the marine mammals and birds and need 450 years to disappear.
- 40% of the inhabitants of the earth do not have access to clean drinking water. Water is precious.



Gestures

Together, we can save the earth.

How? To lower the impact of climate change, we have to reduce our energy consumption: save hot water, reduce heating and cooling and electricity use. You too can act.

Choose at least 3 gestures among the 5 in the list, include them in your "pledge" list, and send it with a drawing for the Tuvalian children to:

Alofa Tuvalu
30, rue Philippe Hecht,
75019 Paris, France

Send it also to
www.defipourlaterre.org
to face the "challenge for the earth".

1. I switch off lights and electrical appliances without leaving them on standby; I think of making sure the refrigerator door is closed properly.
2. I lower the heating level and put on a sweater.
3. I take a quick shower instead of a bath and use hot water only when I really need it.
4. I respect the principle of the 3 R's: I Reduce packaging, I Reuse by writing on both sides of paper, for example. I Recycle and I separate my wastes and put them in the right trash receptacles/bins.
5. I make short trips on foot or by bicycle and I insist on taking a train instead of a plane whenever it's possible.

Finally and this is very important, explain to your parents, your friends, your teachers all that you have learned in this cartoon book so that, like you, they also commit to protect the planet!

Pledge

I pledge to help Hugo and Mamaua to save the planet by making the following gestures:

1.

2.

3.



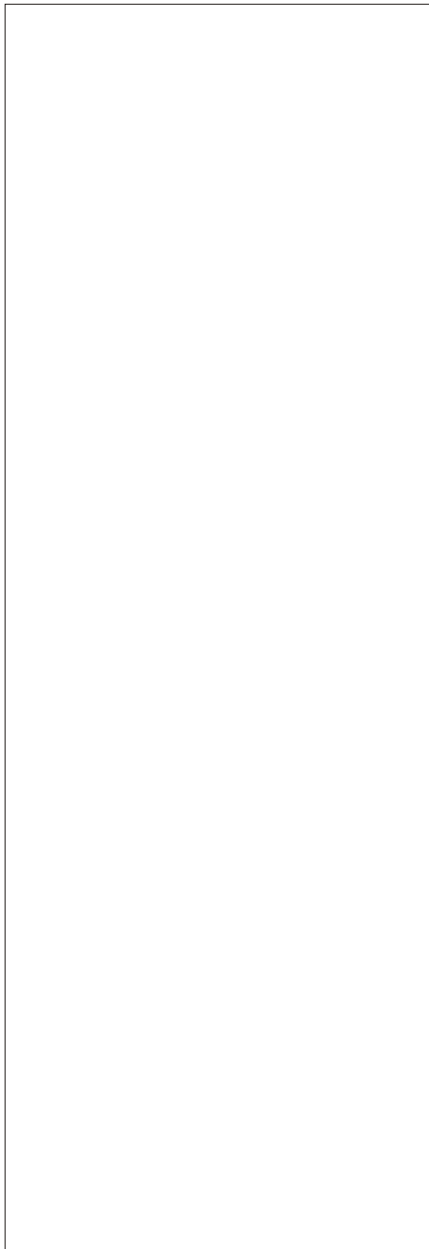
My name:

My address:

My telephone number:

My e-mail address:

My drawing



Your turn to Act

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ADEME



Agence de l'Environnement
et de la Maîtrise de l'Énergie

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