

# Integrating Environmental Education Curriculum into Outdoor Education & Recreation Programs

Association of Outdoor Education & Recreation webinar  
September 7, 2023: Part I of II

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# Outline of Session

## Principles & Concepts



Defining Environmental Education (EE)



Effective EE: Research Findings



EE Standards

## Application



Curriculum:

- Goals
- Lesson/activity plans
- Assessments
- Methodologies
- Syllabus



Limitations



# Environmental Education Defined

“The goal of environmental education is to develop a world population that is aware of, and concerned about, the environment and its associated problems, and which has the **knowledge, skills, attitudes, motivations** and **commitment** to work individually and collectively toward solutions of current problems and the prevention of new ones.”

Belgrade Charter: United Nations International Environmental Education Workshop, Belgrade Yugoslavia, 1975



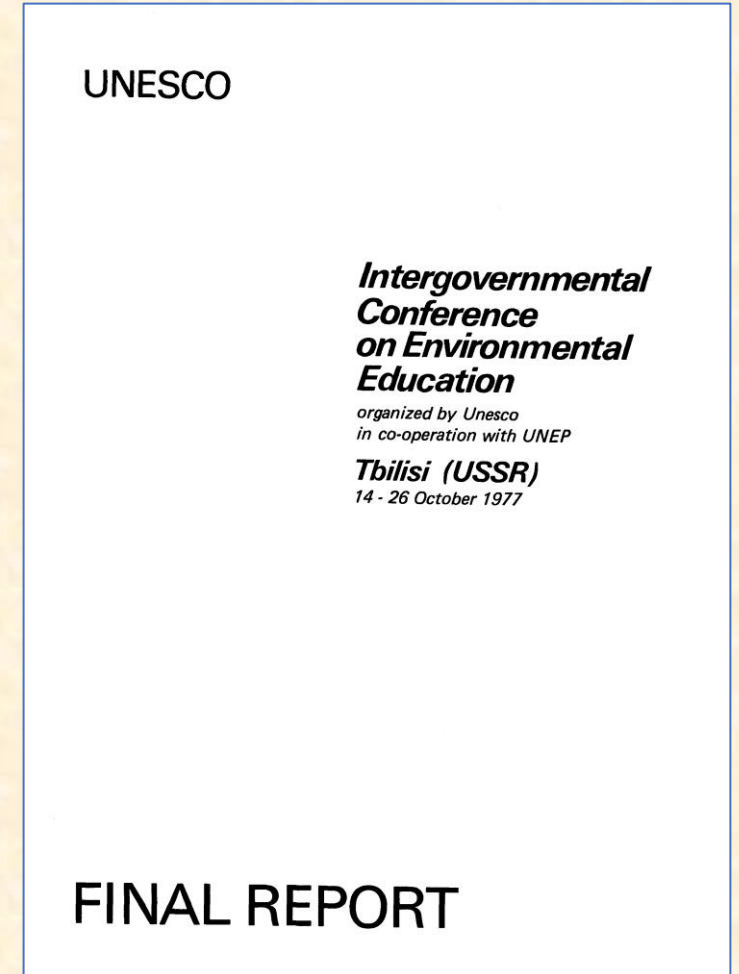
# Environmental Education Defined

## Goals of environmental education:

1. To foster clear **awareness** of, and **concern** about, economic, social, political and ecological interdependence in urban and rural areas;
2. To provide every person with opportunities to acquire the **knowledge, values, attitudes, commitment,** and **skills** needed to protect and improve the environment;
3. To create new patterns of **behavior** of individuals, groups, and society as a whole toward the environment.

## Categories of environmental education objectives:

1. Awareness
2. Knowledge
3. **Attitudes**
4. **Skills**
5. **Participation**



Tbilisi Declaration, Tbilisi USSR, 1977

# Environmental Education Defined

Environmental Sustainability:

Meeting the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Brundtland Commission (UN), 1987



Gro Harlem Brundtland



# Environmental Education Defined

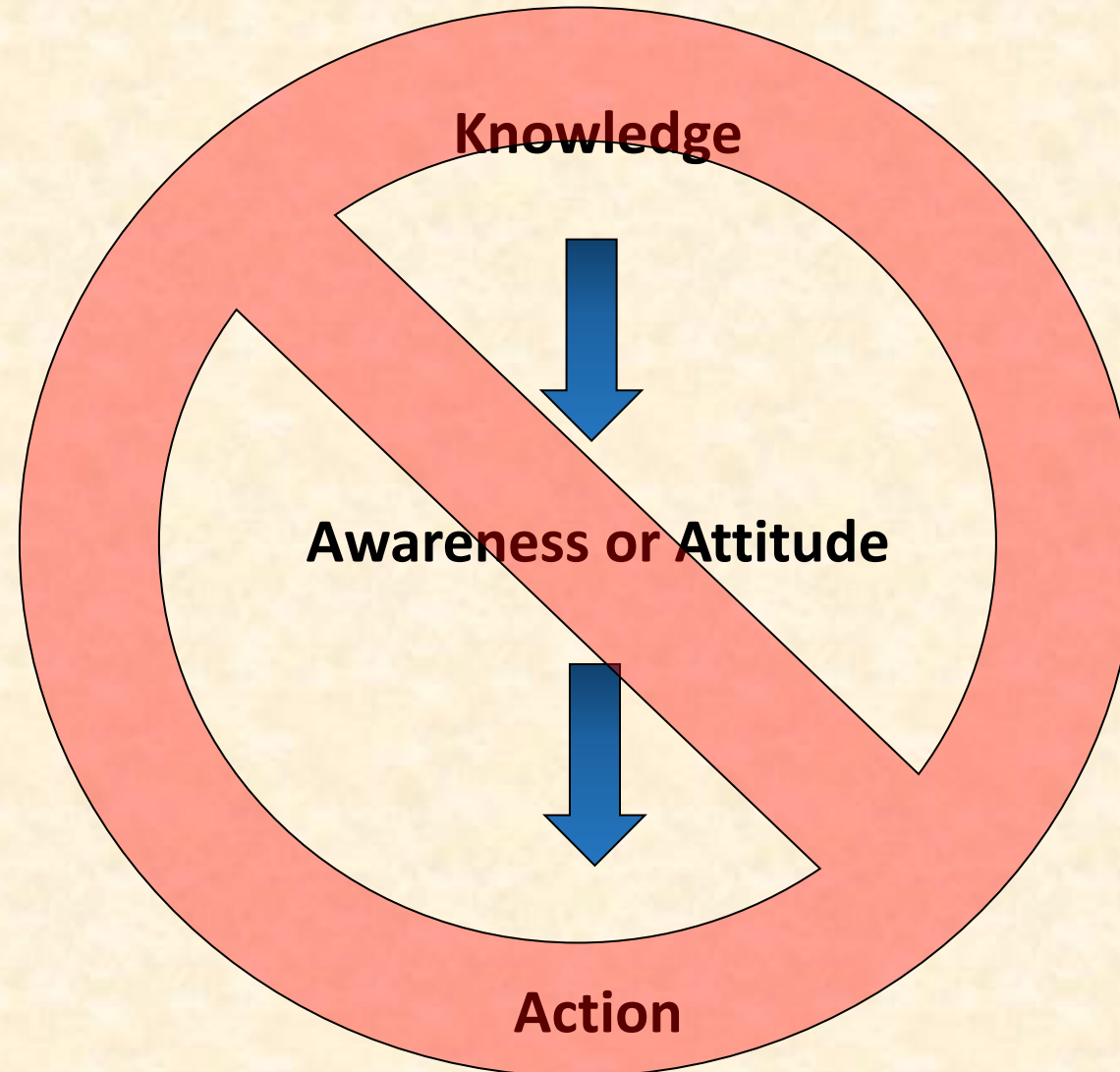
## Environmental Sustainability:

1. In a sustainable society, **nature is not subject to systematically increasing...**
  - a. **Concentrations of substances from the earth's crust** (such as fossil CO<sub>2</sub>, heavy metals and minerals)
  - b. **Concentrations of substances produced by society** (such as antibiotics and endocrine disruptors)
  - c. **Degradation by physical means** (such as deforestation and draining of groundwater tables).
  
2. And in that society there are no structural obstacles to **people's health, influence, competence, impartiality and meaning.**



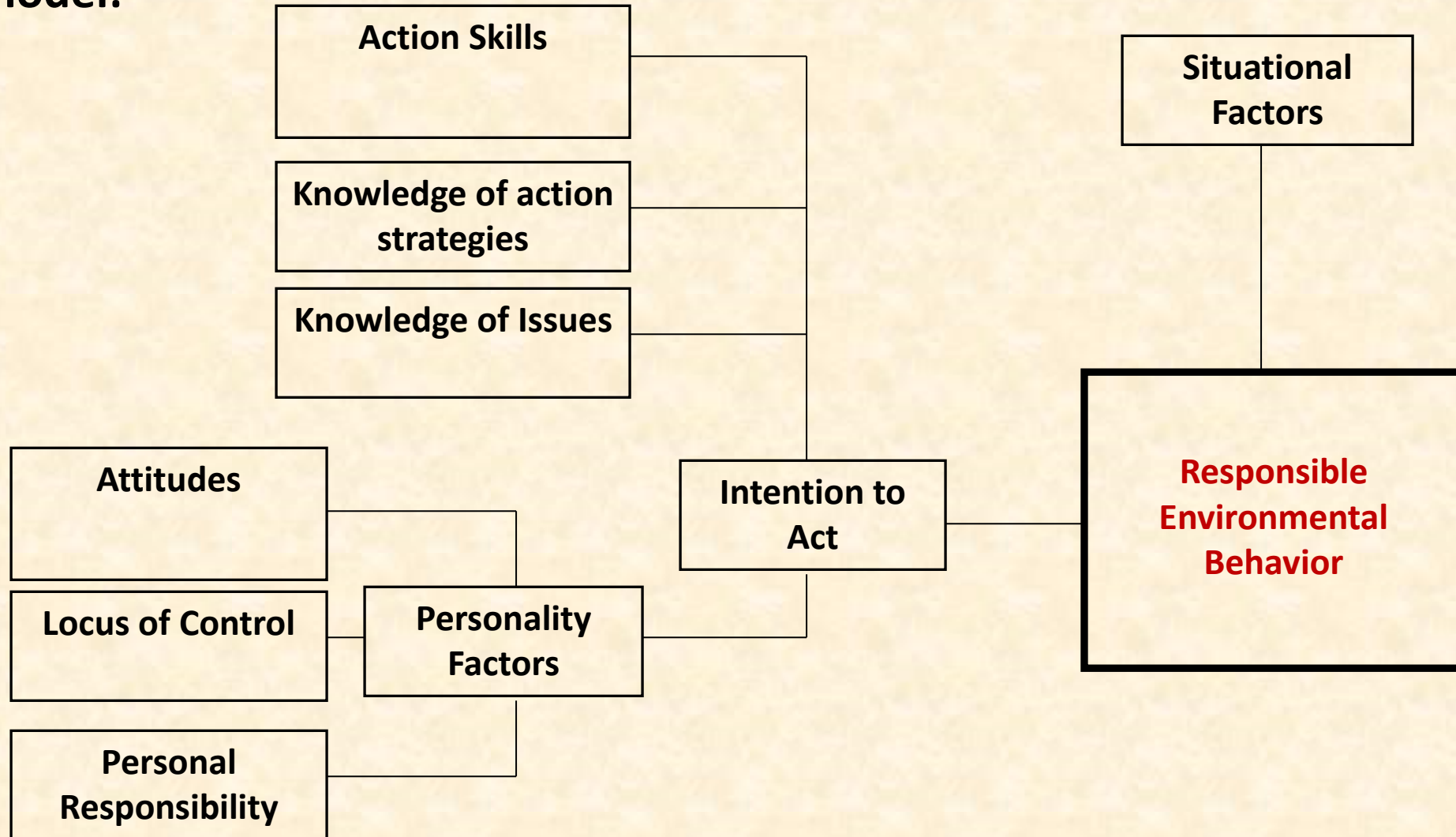
 The Natural Step

# Evidence-Based Best Practice



# Evidence-Based Best Practice

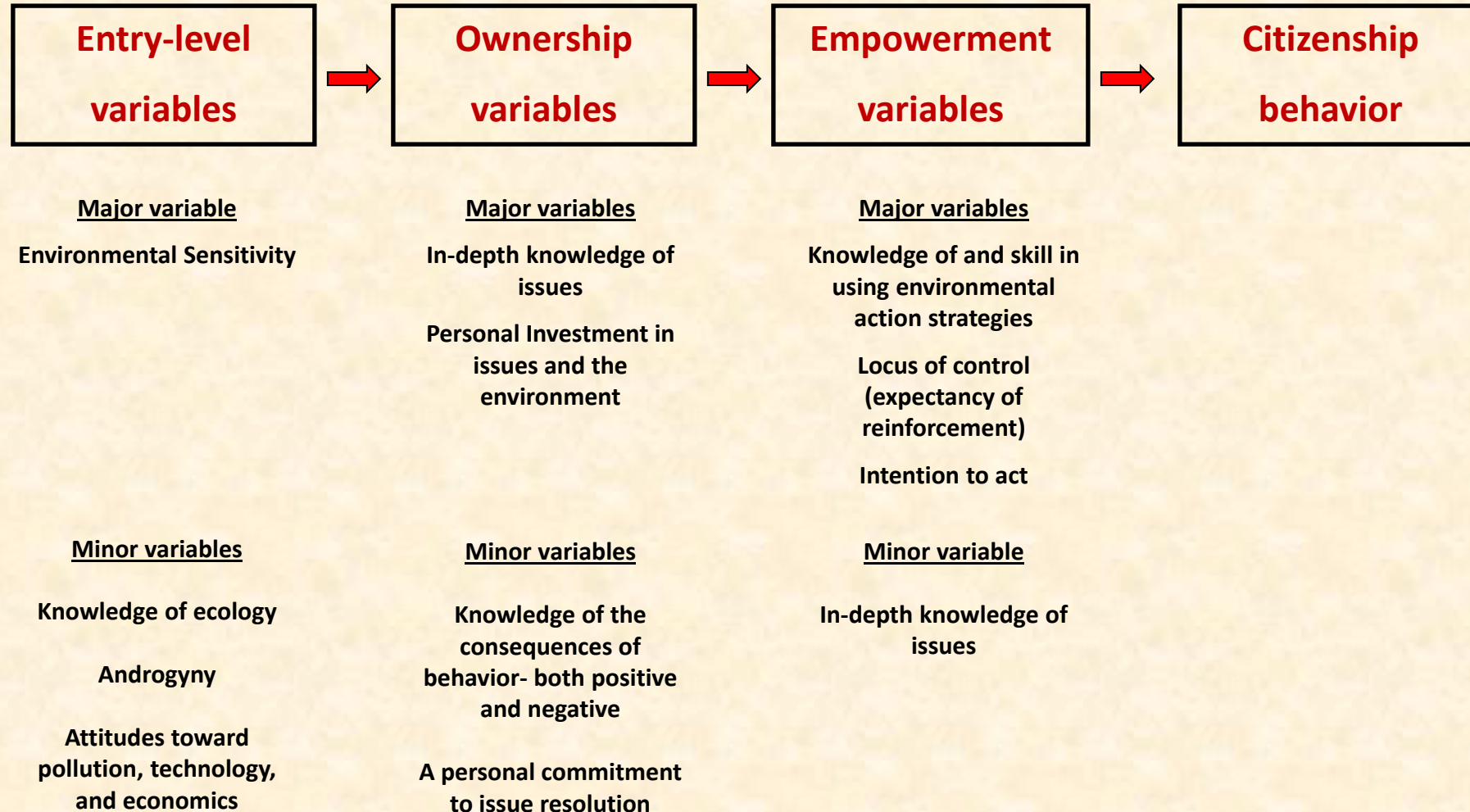
Hines model:





# Evidence-Based Best Practice

## Hungerford/Volk model: Major and Minor Variables Involved In Environmental Citizenship Behavior



# Evidence-Based Best Practice

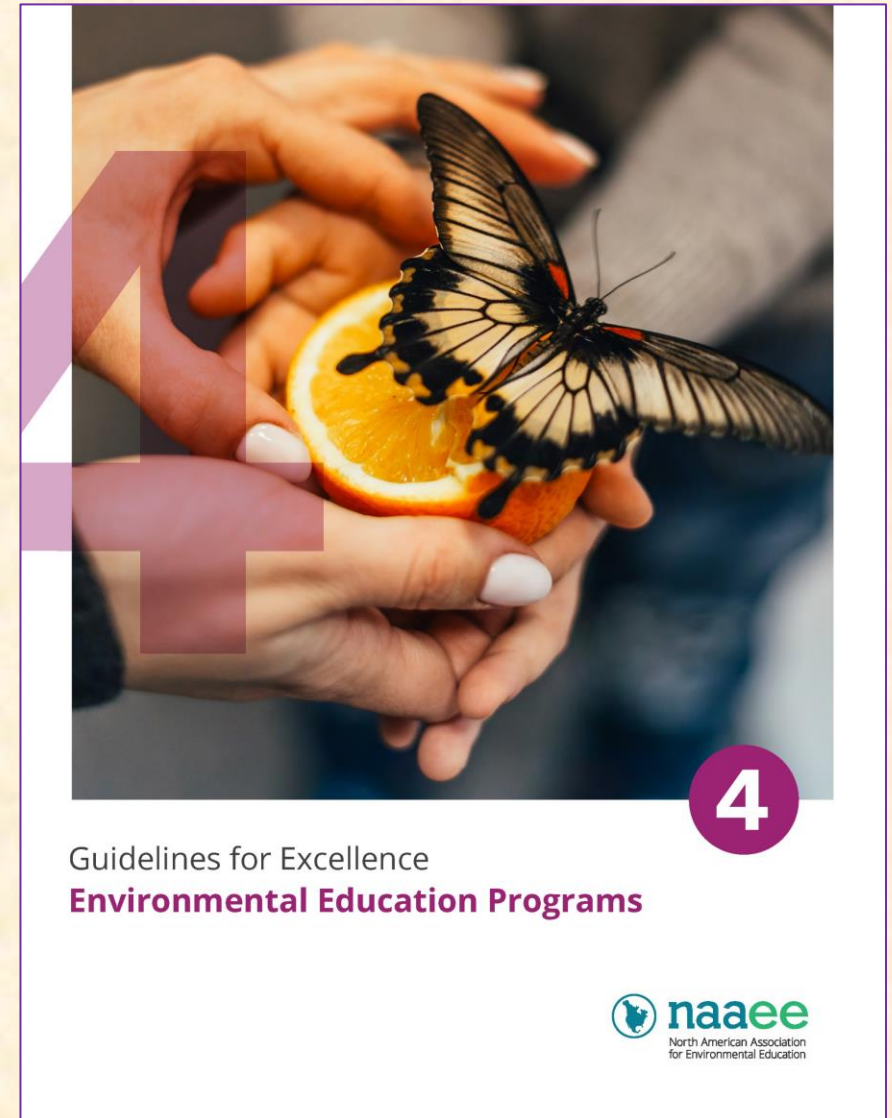
**Responsible  
Environmental  
Behavior**



# Evidence-Based Best Practice

## NAAEE 4 Thematic Strands:

- 1 Questioning, Analysis, and Interpretation Skills**
- 2 Understanding Environmental Processes and Systems**
  - Earth's physical and living systems
  - Human systems
  - Environment and society
- 3 Skills for Understanding and Addressing Environmental Issues**
  - Skills for analyzing and investigating environmental issues
  - Decision-making and action skills
- 4 Personal and Civic Responsibility**





# Evidence-Based Best Practice

## Characteristics of Environmental Education Materials

- 1 Accurate and Inclusive
- 2 Emphasis on Skills Building
- 3 Depth of Understanding
- 4 Personal and Civic Responsibility
- 5 Instructional Effectiveness
- 6 Usability



# Summary

## Environmental education objectives:

- Awareness
- Knowledge
- Attitudes
- Skills
- Participation

## Environmental education goal: sustainability

Nature not subject to systematically increasing concentrations of substances (e.g. fossil CO<sub>2</sub>), physical degradation; human needs met

## Environmental education addresses:

1. Ecological Concepts
2. Environmental Sensitivity
3. Knowledge Of Issues
4. Beliefs, Values
5. Locus Of Control
6. Knowledge Of Action Strategies
7. Skill In Using Action Strategies





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