

The Benefits of Forests

An educational presentation
for friends, teachers, parents,
entrepreneurs and governments.

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We are destroying too many forests.

1

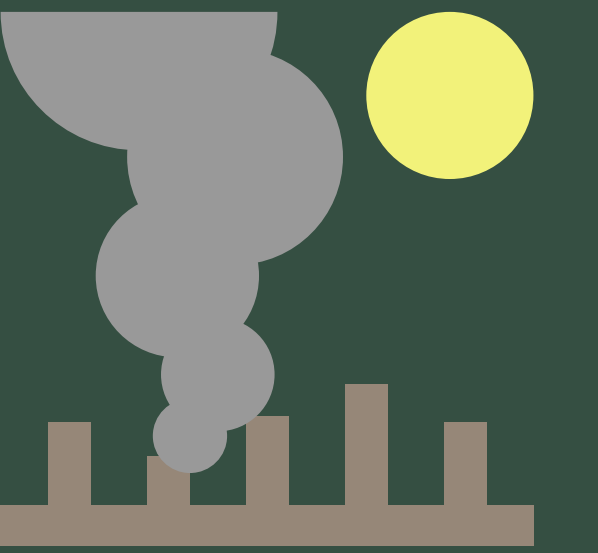
Reversing Global Warming

Global Warming is swiftly overtaking the normal weather patterns of the past. Even if you don't believe in global warming, humans are devastating our natural ecosystems and resources at a rate that is going to make life on earth harder to live. Forests are the key to reducing global warming and maintaining a high quality of life for humanity.

Global warming is overtaking normal weather patterns.



Humans are devastating ecosystems around the world.



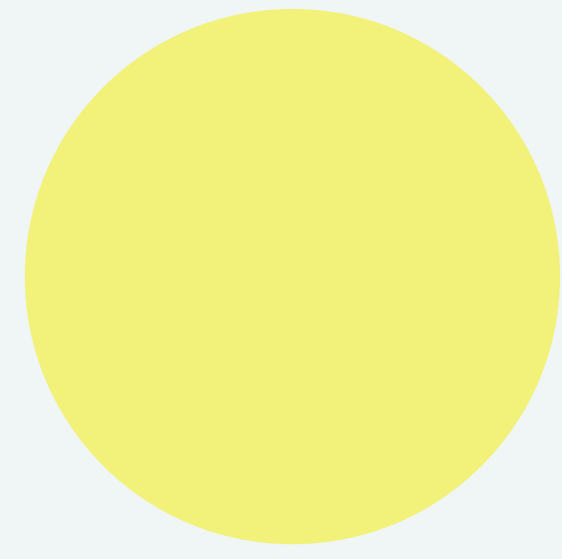
Forests can help solve global warming.



Forests are the key to a high quality of life.



WITHOUT FORESTS



Increased Temperatures



Limited Biodiversity

Dry Air

No Shade

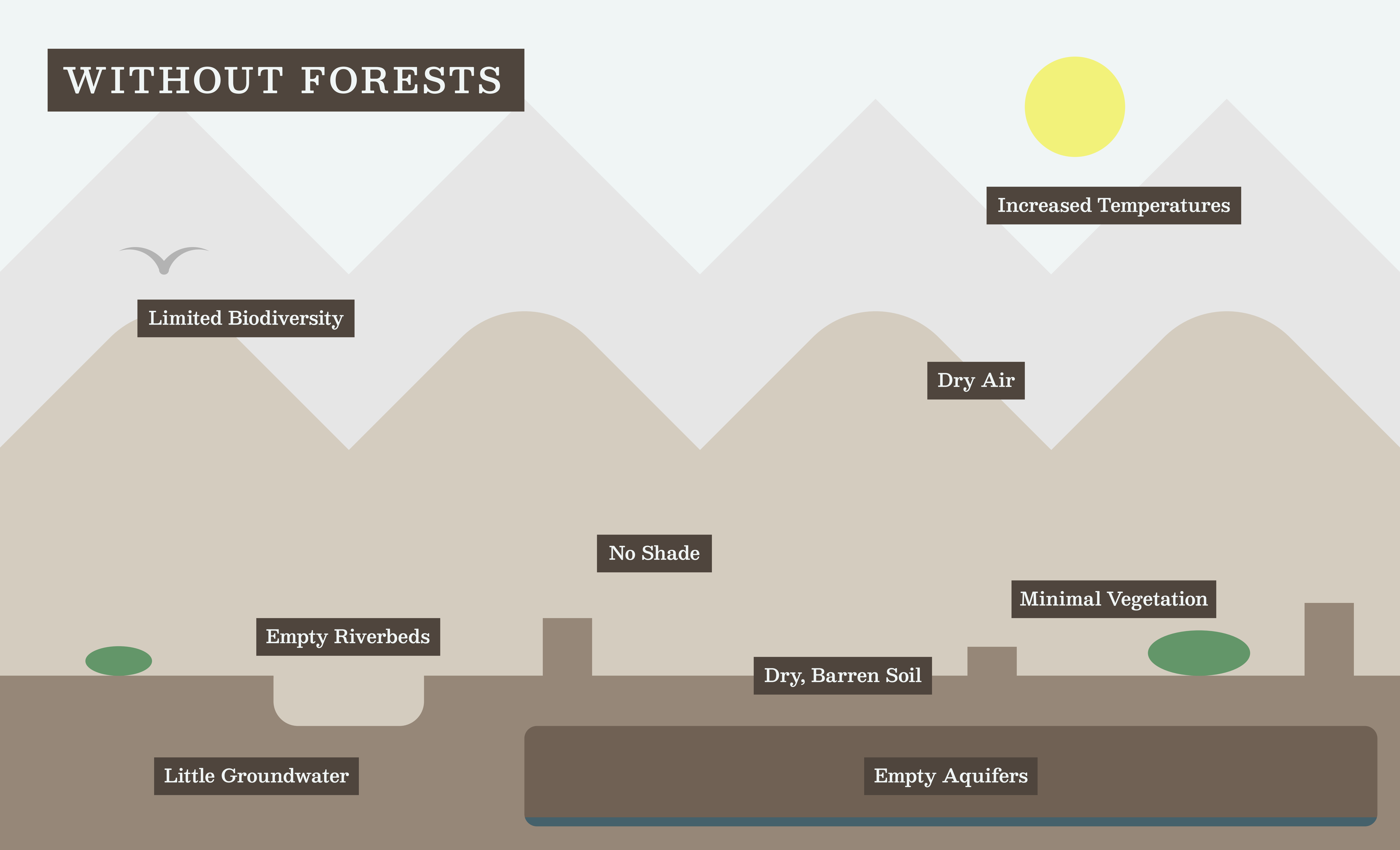
Minimal Vegetation

Empty Riverbeds

Dry, Barren Soil

Little Groundwater

Empty Aquifers

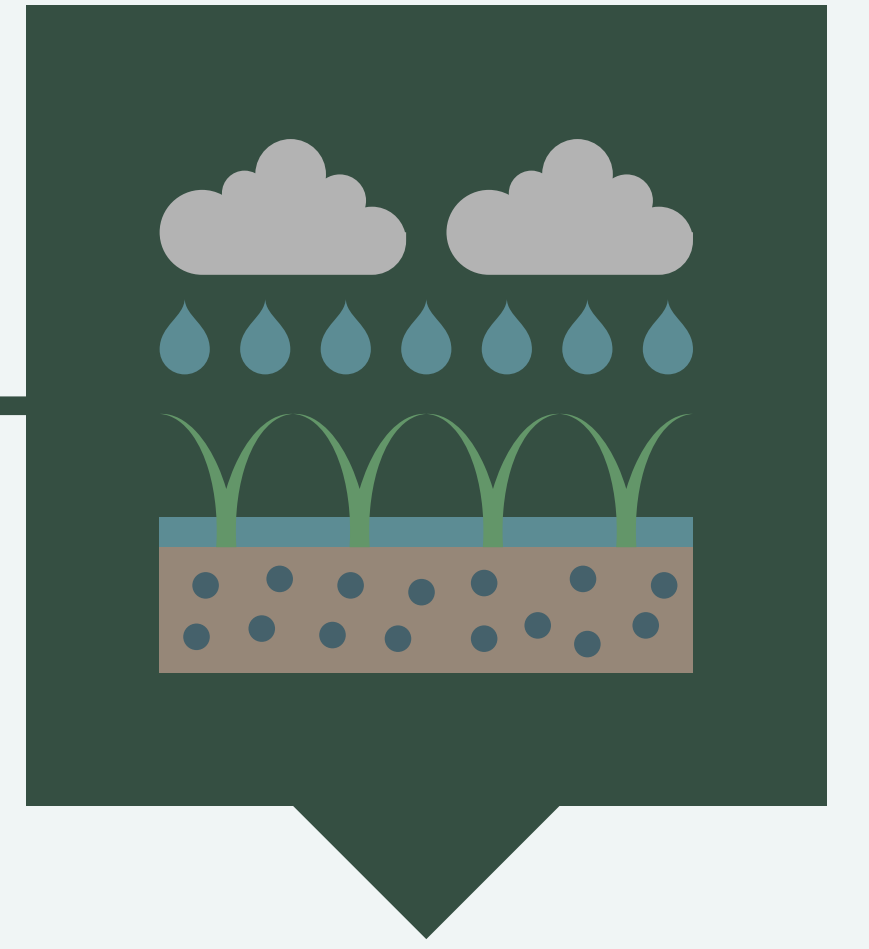


2

Providing Multiple Benefits

Forests provide a myriad of benefits that work together and create self-sustaining systems that allow life to flourish. The most important benefit of forests is water, the main building block of all life.

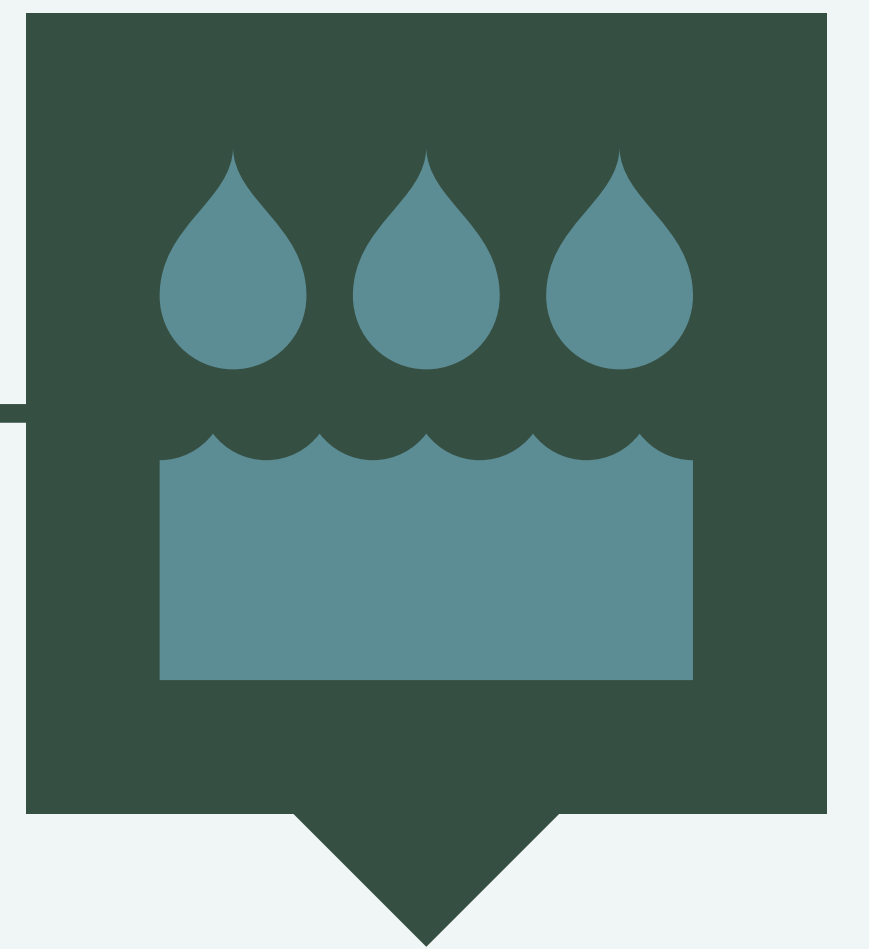
Forests provide multiple benefits.



Forest benefits are mutually reinforcing.



Water is the greatest benefit of forests.



Water is the main building block of all life.





Forests bring rain.

3

Lowering Temperatures and Causing Rain

The presence of healthy forests creates a positive water cycle: because of the decreased temperatures around and above forests, clouds form through condensation and cause water to fall from the sky, replenishing the water in the ground. This rain helps keep forests damp and cool, and helps prevent droughts and forest fires.

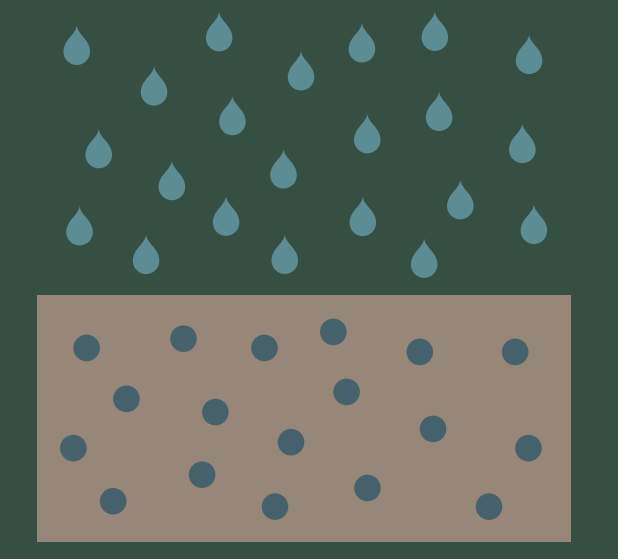
Forests lower temperatures, which help form rain clouds.



Water-heavy clouds rain on the ground.



Groundwater is replenished.



Damp forests prevent droughts and fires.





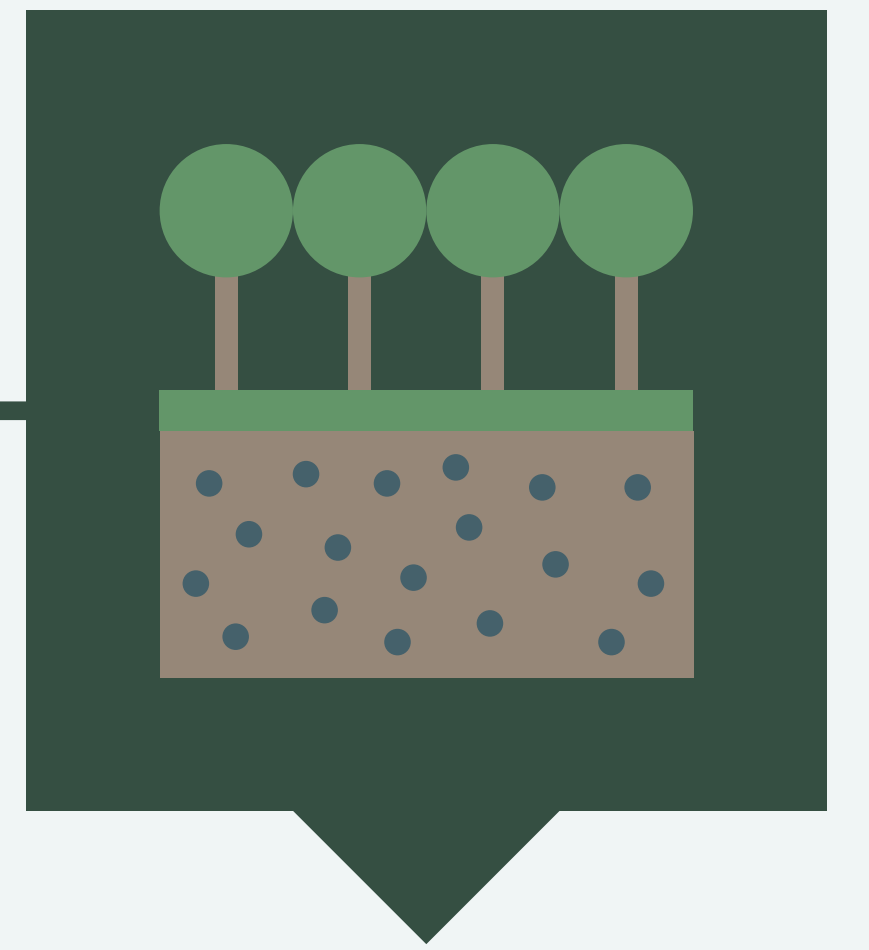
Forests feed water systems.

4

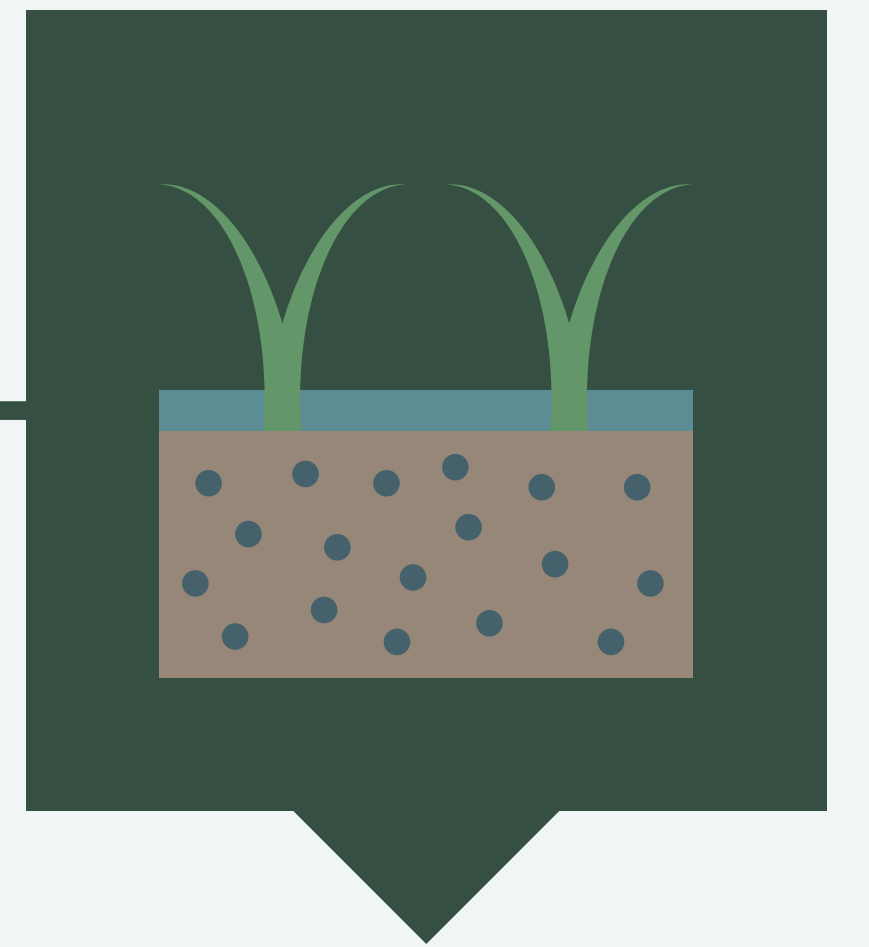
Storing Groundwater

Shade from forest trees keeps the ground cool and helps prevent water evaporation. Smaller plants that grow under the shade of the trees increase water absorption into the ground. Water that is held in the ground feeds springs, streams, and rivers, even during dry seasons and droughts. Groundwater also replenishes aquifers, which humans access for towns and cities.

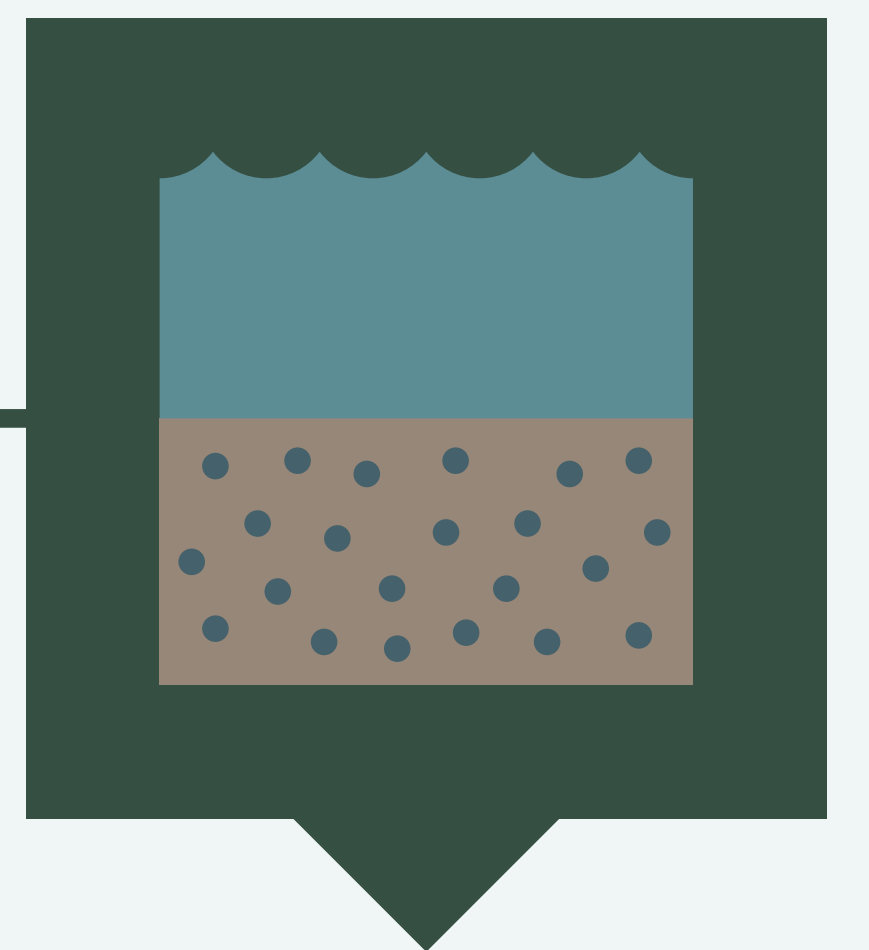
Tree and plant shade prevent water evaporation.



Smaller plants increase water absorption through friction.



Water in the ground feeds streams and rivers.



Water in ground replenishes aquifers.





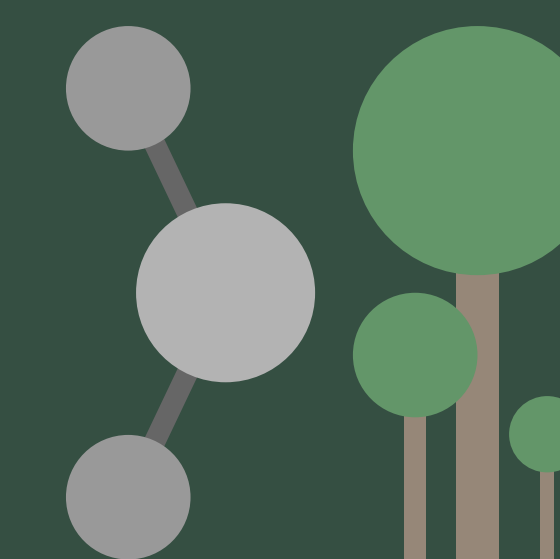
Forests create soil.

5

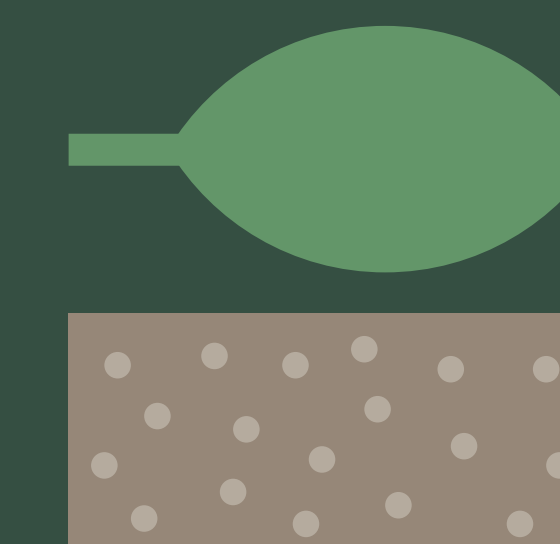
Trapping Carbon and Building Soil

Forests trap carbon and build fertile soil. As trees and smaller plants die they decompose and become new soil, a vital building block for healthy ecosystems and farms that feed humanity.

Trees and plants pull carbon out of the air.



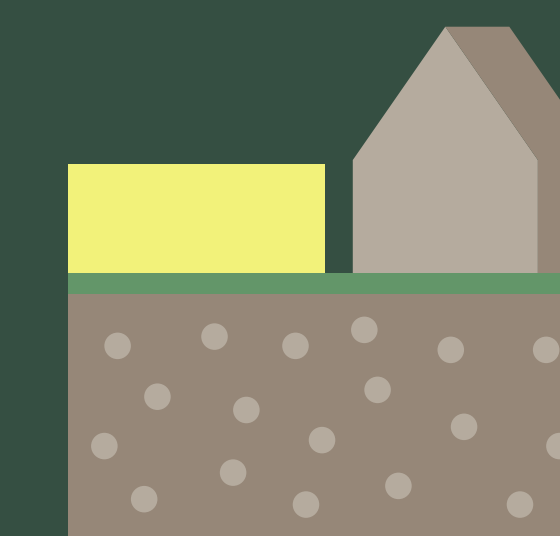
Trees and plants become soil when they die.



Soil is a vital building block for life on land.



Fertile soil is necessary for farming.





Humans can reforest.

6

Recovering Lost Forests

The earth has lost 1/3 of its forests in the last 10,000 years. Half of that was in the last 50. It's our responsibility to forest every area possible. And forestation need not only be environmentally motivated: current deserts can be forested to help establish farmland, groundwater, and weather systems that are friendly to humans. There is even potential for forestation and land restoration as a commercial activity, with investment in arid land as future forests a possibility.

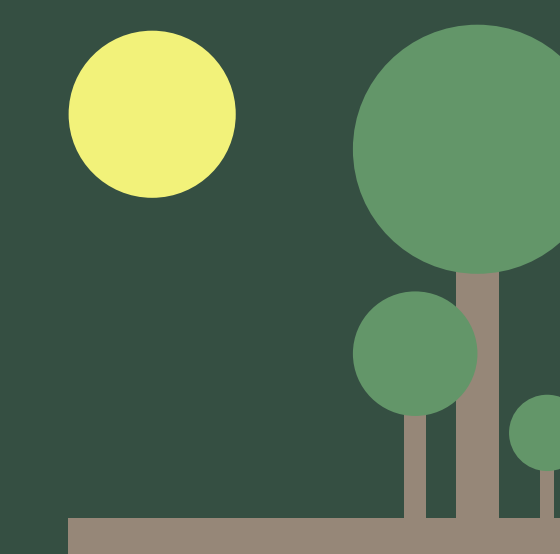
The earth lost one sixth of its forests in the last fifty years.



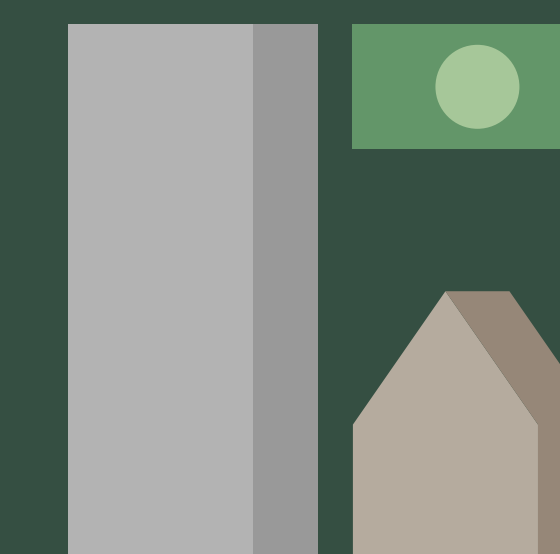
We have the power to reforest.



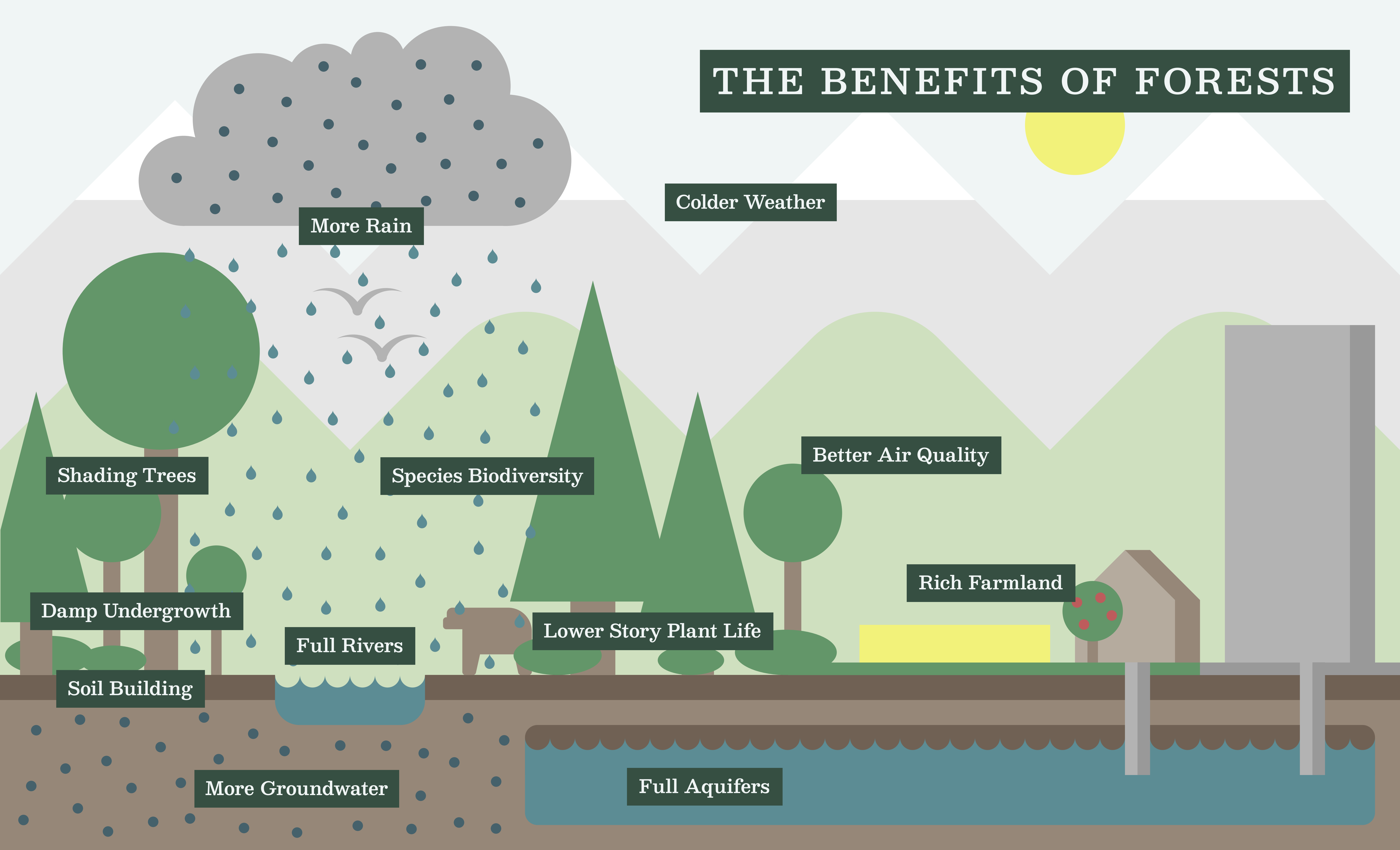
Deserts can be converted into fertile land.



Forestation has positive economic effects.



THE BENEFITS OF FORESTS



More Rain

Colder Weather

Shading Trees

Species Biodiversity

Better Air Quality

Damp Undergrowth

Rich Farmland

Full Rivers

Lower Story Plant Life

Soil Building

More Groundwater

Full Aquifers

7

Making a Local and Global Impact

If there is a critical mass of new local forests around the world this will help reduce global warming. If we each care for our corner of the world we can create and maintain resources that improve our quality of life and provide habitats for plants and animals.

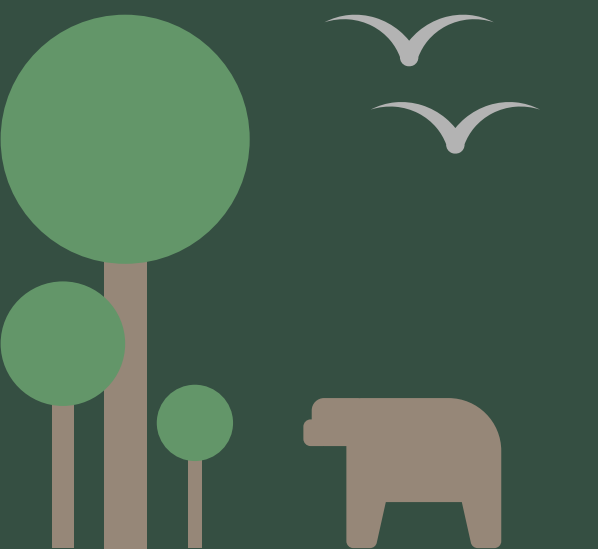
Planting forests helps decrease global warming.



Your local efforts have a global impact.



Forests increase biodiversity.



Forests improve the quality of life for humans.





Forests mean living well.



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