

Moisture Situation Update – June 16, 2019

Synopsis

So far this season many parts of the province have been unusually dry. The driest areas include the northern half of the Peace Region, a large area north of Edmonton, as well as a widespread region that stretches along a line between Calgary to Lloydminster, and then southward from Calgary, through Lethbridge on down towards the US Border (**map 1**). Several lands within these regions are estimated to be at one in 50 year lows with respect to precipitation received over the last 90-days.

Looking at total precipitation accumulations over this same time frame, parts of the northern Peace Region have seen less than 30 mm (**map 2**), compared to the long term average, which ranges between 80 to 100mm. Similarly, parts of the Special Areas and counties to the south have seen less than 40 mm, which is well below the 100 to 120 mm they receive on average. Furthermore, about half of this precipitation has fallen since the beginning of June.

Since June 1st, a more “typical” weather pattern has settled in over most of the province with at least near normal precipitation falling across a wide area ranging from Calgary, up to Grande Prairie (**map 3**). However, conditions remain dry across the Southern Region and throughout the northern-half of the Peace Region, with most areas receiving less than 20 mm since June 1 (**map 4**). Most of this moisture has arrived with the passage of fast moving thunder storms, bringing wide spread “spotty” relief to some lands.

Weather Forecast:

- Over the next two days, expect to see wide spread thunderstorm activity, generally confined to the west half of the province. This may bring further spotty relieve to the Peace Region and the western side of the Southern Region. Starting late tomorrow, a cold pressure system is set to bring some wide spread but relatively light rains to the northern Peace Region.
- By Wednesday, a second system will begin to bring wide spread rains across most of the south half of the province. Over the next few days, rainfall accumulations will be heaviest west of Highway 2, between Calgary and Edmonton with upwards of 100 mm expected in some areas.
- A second area of heavy rain is expected through Wetaskiwin, and up on towards the Two Hills and Smoky Lake area with upwards of 50 mm possible, by the weekend.
- Rainfall accumulations through the dry south and also through the Special Areas will be less but still significant. Up to 20 mm is expected through these parts before the system moves off to the east.

Near-real-time hourly station data can be viewed/downloaded at

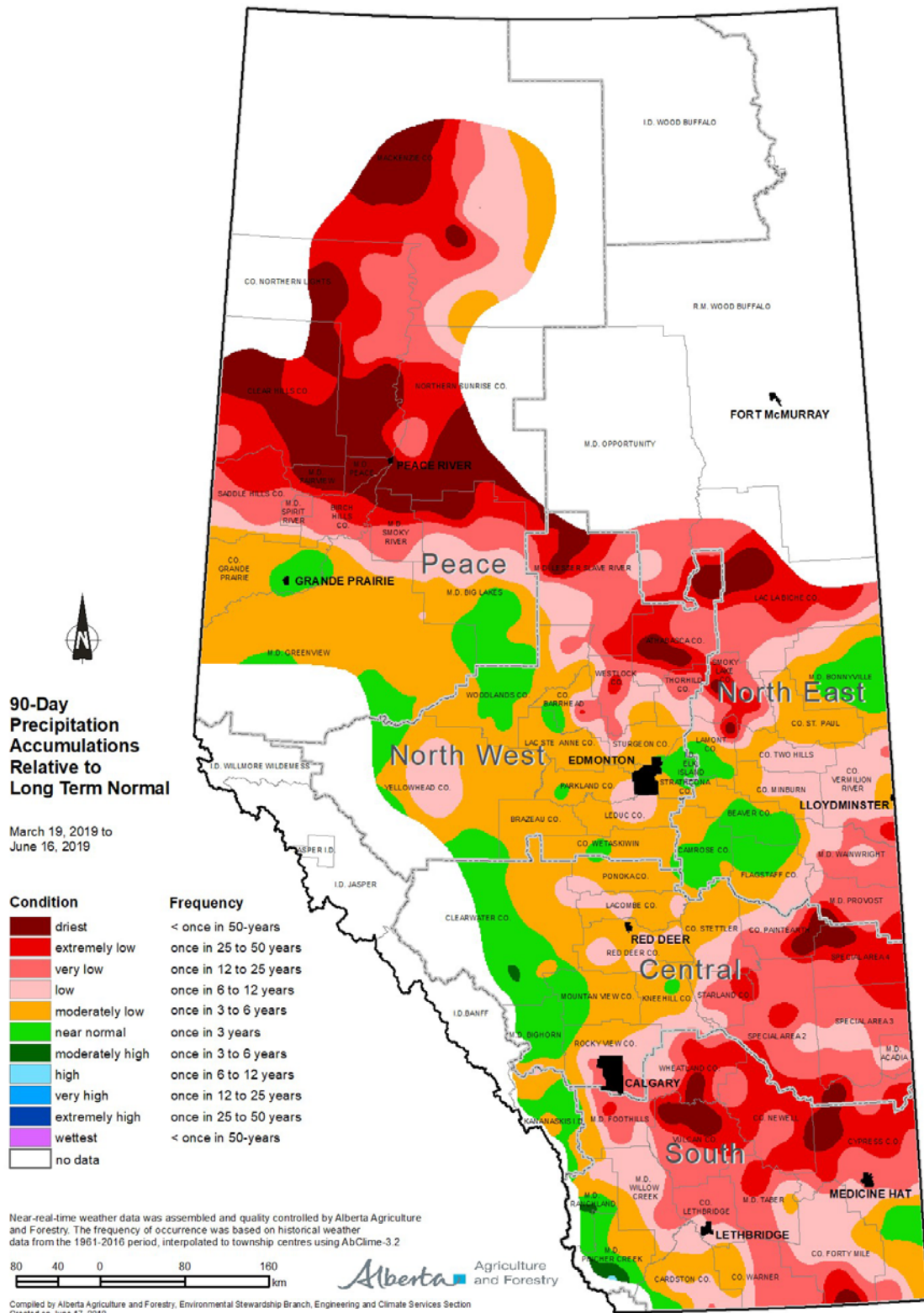
www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations

Note: Data has about a two-hour lag and is displayed in MST.

Ralph Wright
Manager, Agro-meteorological Applications and Modelling Section
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Phone: 780-446-6831

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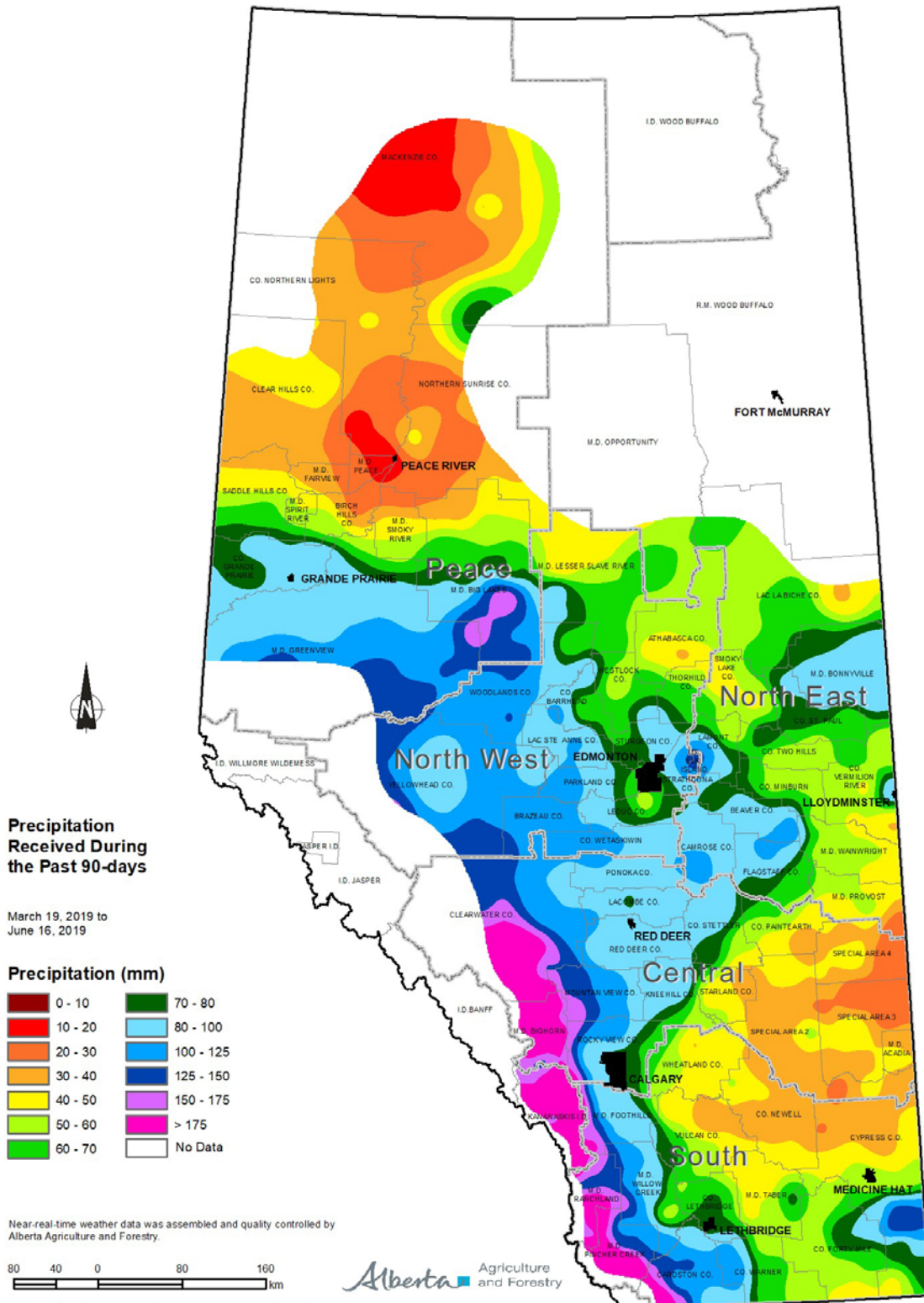
Map 1



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

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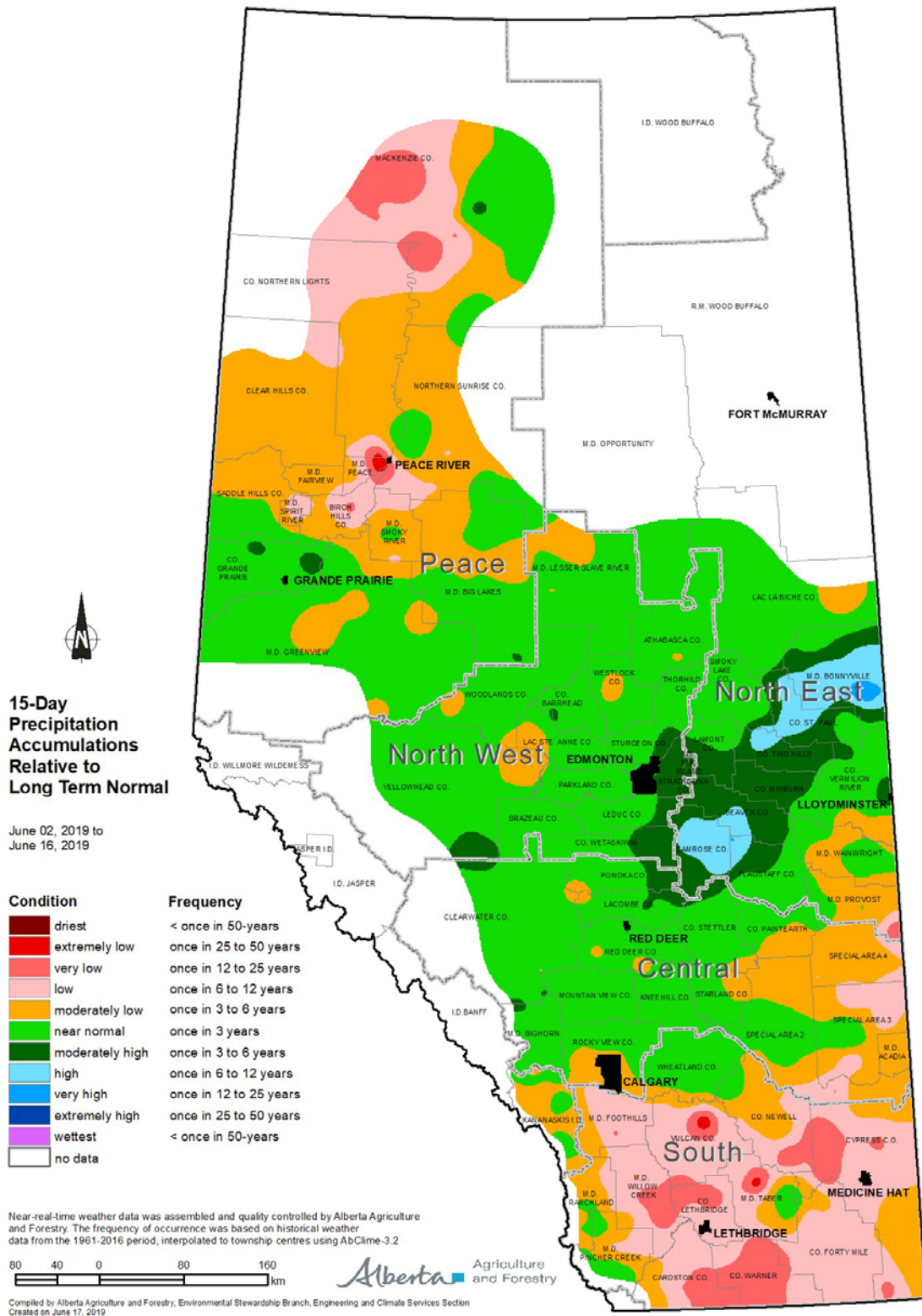
Map 2



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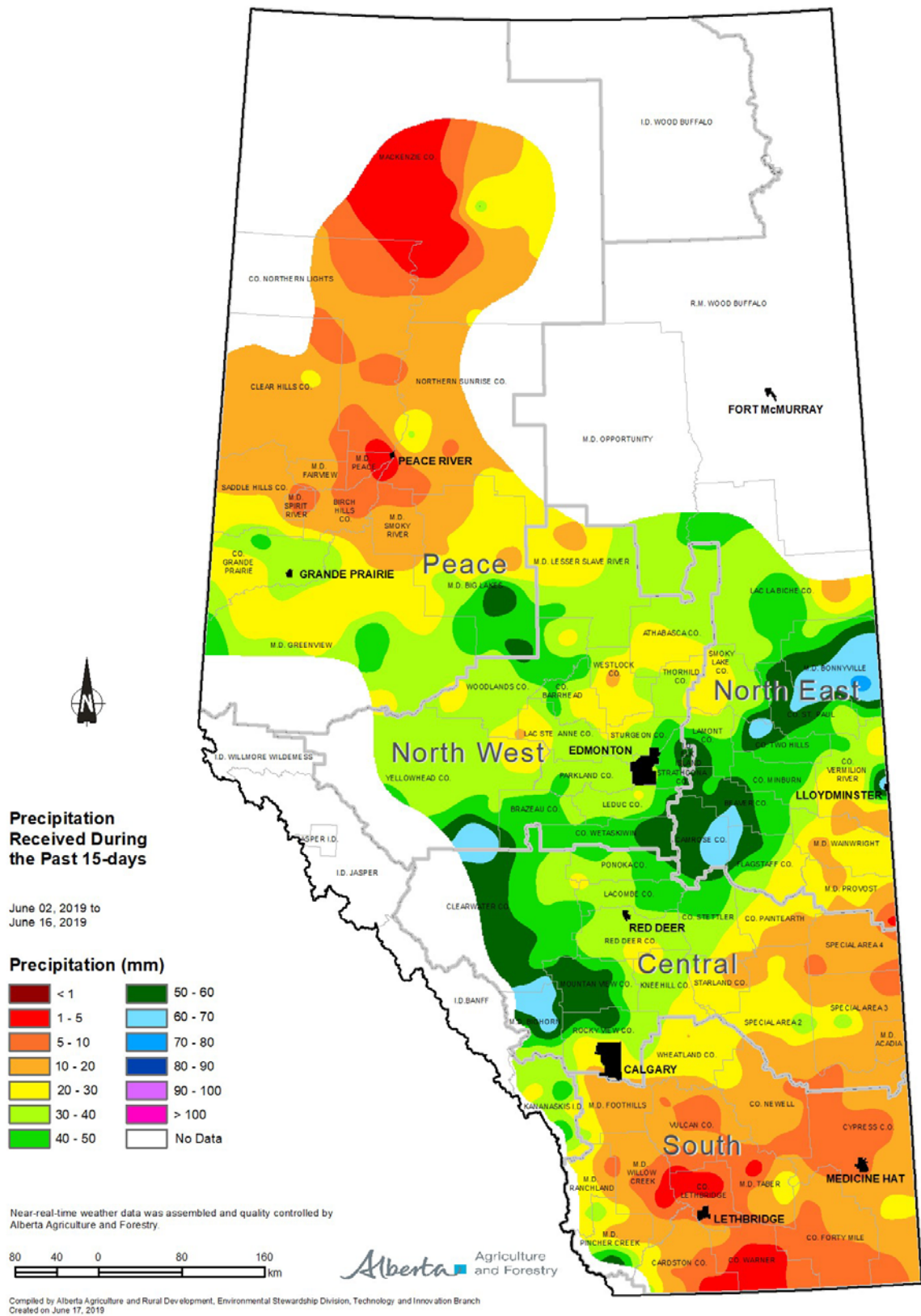
Map 3



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Map 4



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