Understanding Regative Exponents

A positive exponent tells the user how many times to multiply a number $3^4 = 3 * 3 * 3 * 3$

VS

A negative exponent tells the user how many times to divide a number

 $3^{-3} = 1/3/3/3$

Turn your negative into a positive by placing a 1 over the positive exponent version: $3^{-3} = 1/3^3$

1/(3 * 3 * 3) = 1/27 = 0.037037





Meets: Common Core Standard Precursor to Eighth Grade 8.EE.A.1