# Essential Element, Linkage Levels, and Mini-Map

## Math: Grade 3

### M.EE.3.OA.8

<table>
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<th>Grade-Level Standard</th>
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| M.3.OA.8 Solve two-step word problems using the four operations. Represent these problems using equations with a letter standing for the unknown quantity. Assess the reasonableness of answers using mental computation and estimation strategies including rounding. | M.EE.3.OA.8 Solve one-step real world problems using addition or subtraction within 20 | **Initial Precursor**
- Combine sets
- Partition sets  
**Distal Precursor**
- Demonstrate the concept of addition
- Demonstrate the concept of subtraction  
**Proximal Precursor**
- Determine the unknown in an addition equation
- Determine the unknown in a subtraction equation  
**Target**
- Solve subtraction word problems within 100
- Solve addition word problems within 100  
**Successor**
- Solve 2-step addition and subtraction word problems |

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### How is the Initial Precursor related to the Target?

**Initial Precursor:** The knowledge needed to solve addition and subtraction word problems links back to an understanding of how to create sets (see M.3.OA.1-2), but it also requires learning to manipulate sets (i.e., combining and separating or partitioning). Provide students many opportunities to take a set of objects (e.g., tiles, linking cubes, buttons) and separate them based on a given characteristic (e.g., shape, color, size) into two distinct sets, separate them again based on another characteristic. Guide students to notice how the set size changes each time you combine or partition the sets.

### How is the Distal Precursor related to the Target?

**Distal Precursor:** As students gain an understanding of how to group and manipulate items into sets, educators will begin to help students connect their knowledge of sets and counting to addition and subtraction. Educators will provide multiple experiences using the various addition and subtraction problem types (e.g., joining, separating, part-part-whole, and comparison problems). Here are a few examples.

![Diagram showing the relationship of nodes in the mini-map](image-url)

**Key to map codes in upper right corner of node boxes:**

- **IP** Initial Precursor
- **SP** Supporting
- **DP** Distal Precursor
- **S** Successor
- **PP** Proximal Precursor
- **UN** Untested
- **T** Target
M.EE.3.OA.8 Solve one-step real world problems using addition or subtraction within 20.