

Problem-Solving Strategy: Work Backward

Problem Judy found an old plank on the beach. She cut off 12 centimeters where the plank was broken. Then she cut the remaining plank into 3 equal pieces. Each piece is now 20 centimeters long. How long was the plank she found on the beach?

UNDERSTAND

1. What do you want to know?

PLAN

2. With what amount will you start working backward?

SOLVE

3. Write the solution to the problem in a complete sentence.

LOOK BACK

4. How can you work forward to check that your answer is reasonable?
