

Problem-Solving Strategy: Work Backward

Problem George Washington was the first president of the United States. If you were to subtract 87 from the year Washington's term ended and then divide by 30, you will find how old Washington was when he became president. Washington was also the president of the Constitutional Convention, which occurred in 1787, 10 years before his term as U.S. president ended. How old was Washington when he became president of the U.S.?

UNDERSTAND

What is the question?

When was the Constitutional Convention?

What other facts do you know?

PLAN

How can you work backward to solve the problem?

SOLVE

When did Washington's term end?

Subtract 87 from the year his term ended and then divide that number by 30.

What is the solution?

LOOK BACK

How do you know your answer is reasonable?
