

- 4. Follow the path determined in step 3, and calculate the current in and potential difference across each equivalent resistance. Repeat this process until the desired values are found.**

A. Regroup, evaluate, and calculate.

Replace the circuit's equivalent resistance with group **(d)**. The resistors in group **(d)** are in series; therefore, the current in each resistor is the same as the current in the equivalent resistance, which equals 0.71 A. The potential difference across the $2.7\ \Omega$ resistor in group **(d)** can be calculated using $\Delta V = IR$.

Given: $I = 0.71\ \text{A}$ $R = 2.7\ \Omega$

Unknown: $\Delta V = ?$

$$\Delta V = IR = (0.71\ \text{A})(2.7\ \Omega) = 1.9\ \text{V}$$

B. Regroup, evaluate, and calculate.

Replace the center resistor with group **(c)**.

The resistors in group **(c)** are in parallel; therefore, the potential difference across each resistor is the same as the potential difference across the $2.7\ \Omega$ equivalent resistance, which equals 1.9 V. The current in the $8.0\ \Omega$ resistor in group **(c)** can be calculated using $\Delta V = IR$.

Given: $\Delta V = 1.9\ \text{V}$ $R = 8.0\ \Omega$

Unknown: $I = ?$

$$I = \frac{\Delta V}{R} = \frac{1.9\ \text{V}}{8.0\ \Omega} = 0.24\ \text{A}$$

C. Regroup, evaluate, and calculate.

Replace the $8.0\ \Omega$ resistor with group **(b)**.

The resistors in group **(b)** are in series; therefore, the current in each resistor is the same as the current in the $8.0\ \Omega$ equivalent resistance, which equals 0.24 A.

$I = 0.24\ \text{A}$

The potential difference across the $2.0\ \Omega$ resistor can be calculated using $\Delta V = IR$.

Given: $I = 0.24\ \text{A}$ $R = 2.0\ \Omega$

Unknown: $\Delta V = ?$

$$\Delta V = IR = (0.24\ \text{A})(2.0\ \Omega) = 0.48\ \text{V}$$

$\Delta V = 0.48\ \text{V}$



You can check each step in problems like Sample Problem D by using $\Delta V = IR$ for each resistor in a set. You can also check the sum of ΔV for series circuits and the sum of I for parallel circuits.