

**39** At time  $t = 0$  the number of radioactive atoms in a sample of berkelium is  $7.7 \times 10^{23}$ . The decay constant of berkelium is  $2.6 \times 10^{-8} \text{ s}^{-1}$ .

What time elapses before the number of particles has fallen to  $8.6 \times 10^{21}$ ?

- A  $1.2 \times 10^8 \text{ s}$
- B  $1.5 \times 10^8 \text{ s}$
- C  $1.7 \times 10^8 \text{ s}$
- D  $2.1 \times 10^8 \text{ s}$