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Variable Expressions and Sequences - Guided Lesson Explanation

Explanation#1

Step 1) To find the 1^{st} term, plug in n=1.

35n = 35(1) = 35

Step 2) Then to find 2^{nd} term, plug in n=2.

35n = 35(2) = 70

Step 3) Then to find 3^{rd} term, plug in n=3.

35n = 35(3) = 105

The sequence 35, 70, 105,... is described by the expression 35n.

Explanation#2

Step 1) First we have to see what we have to be find out.

"The formula for the nth term of a geometric sequence is

 $a_n = a_1 r^{n-1}$

where an is the n^{th} term, a_1 is the first term, r is the common ratio, and n is the position of a term in the sequence 2, 4, 8, 16,"

Step 2) Then find a_1 the first term in the sequence.

2, 4, 8, 16, ...

The first term, a_1 , is 2.

Step 3) Then find r, the common ratio between consecutive terms.

$2, \underline{x2} \quad 4, \underline{x2} \quad 8, \underline{x2} \quad 16$

The common ratio, r, is 2.

Step 4) Then, finally plug $a_1 = 2$ and r = 2 into the formula.

$$a_n = a_1(r)^{n-1}$$

 $a_n = 2(2)^{n-1}$

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The sequence 2, 4, 8, 16, is described by the equation $a_n = 2(2)^{n-1}$.

Explanation#3

Step 1) To find 1^{st} term, plug in n=3.

 $7(3)^n = 7(3)^3 = 7(27) = 189$

Step 2) Then to find 2^{nd} term, plug in n=4.

 $7(3)^{n} = 7(3)^{4} = 7(81) = 567$

Step 3) Then to find 3^{rd} term, plug in n=5.

 $7(3)^{n} = 7(3)^{5} = 7(243) = 1701$

The first three terms of the sequence are 189, 567, 1701,

