# Who Rebuilds the Union?

Compare presidential and congressional plans for Reconstruction.

**SS24.US1.13b** "Compare congressional and presidential Reconstruction plans, including the legislation and constitutional amendments each plan proposed and passed."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline presidential rules for restoring states, circle congressional rules or rights measures, and write P or C beside each veto or veto override to show who took the action.

### Two Paths After the War

1. After the Civil War, who could decide when former Confederate states returned? President Lincoln's Ten Percent Plan allowed a state to form a new government once 10 percent of its 1860 voters swore loyalty. Lincoln supported the Thirteenth Amendment, passed by Congress in 1865 and ratified that year, which ended slavery. Congress proposed a tougher requirement in the Wade-Davis Bill of 1864: a majority of white male citizens had to swear they had never supported the Confederacy. Lincoln blocked the bill with a pocket veto.

2. After Lincoln's assassination, President Andrew Johnson continued a rapid approach. His plan required former Confederate states to reject secession, cancel Confederate debts, and ratify the Thirteenth Amendment. He granted many former Confederates pardons and did not require states to give Black men voting rights. When Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1866 to protect citizenship and equal legal rights for Black Americans, Johnson vetoed it. Congress overrode his veto, so the act became law despite his opposition.

3. Congress increasingly demanded stronger safeguards. It proposed the Fourteenth Amendment in 1866; ratified in 1868, it established birthright citizenship and equal protection of the laws. Johnson opposed it. Over Johnson's veto, Congress passed the Reconstruction Acts of 1867, placing former Confederate states still awaiting readmission under military rule. For readmission, states had to write constitutions allowing Black men to vote and ratify the Fourteenth Amendment. Congress proposed the Fifteenth Amendment in 1869; ratified in 1870, it barred voting restrictions based on race.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Wade-Davis Bill's loyalty requirement differ from Lincoln's Ten Percent Plan?

2. How did the Reconstruction Acts set different conditions for restoring states than Johnson's plan?

3. What did Johnson and Congress each do about the Civil Rights Act of 1866, and whose position prevailed?

4. Compare the right protected by the amendment Lincoln supported with rights protected by the two later amendments Congress proposed.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 65 to 85 word newspaper editorial set in 1867. Recommend Johnson's or Congress's approach, compare one rule for restoring states and one measure protecting rights, and explain why your choice matters.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 10 · SS24.US1.13b

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline presidential rules for restoring states, circle congressional rules or rights measures, and write P or C beside each veto or veto override to show who took the action. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How did the Wade-Davis Bill's loyalty requirement differ from Lincoln's Ten Percent Plan? | **Lincoln required loyalty oaths from 10 percent of a state's 1860 voters. The Wade-Davis Bill required a majority of white male citizens to swear they had never supported the Confederacy.** |
| 2 | How did the Reconstruction Acts set different conditions for restoring states than Johnson's plan? | **Johnson required states to reject secession, cancel Confederate debts, and ratify the Thirteenth Amendment. The Reconstruction Acts required new constitutions allowing Black men to vote and ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment for readmission.** |
| 3 | What did Johnson and Congress each do about the Civil Rights Act of 1866, and whose position prevailed? | **Johnson vetoed the act, but Congress overrode his veto. Congress's position prevailed, and the act became law.** |
| 4 | Compare the right protected by the amendment Lincoln supported with rights protected by the two later amendments Congress proposed. | **The Thirteenth Amendment ended slavery. The Fourteenth established birthright citizenship and equal protection, while the Fifteenth barred voting restrictions based on race.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our newspaper supports Congress's Reconstruction plan. Johnson would let states return after rejecting secession, canceling Confederate debts, and ratifying the Thirteenth Amendment, without requiring votes for Black men. Congress's Reconstruction Acts demand new state constitutions that grant Black men voting rights and require ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment. Congress also passed a civil rights law despite Johnson's veto. These stronger protections matter because freedom without political power or legal protection could leave formerly enslaved people vulnerable.

Accept either recommendation if the editorial accurately compares the plans and supports its judgment. In an editorial set in 1867, students should not describe the Fourteenth or Fifteenth Amendment as already ratified.