Rebuilding the Union

Compare Reconstruction plans, goals, and consequences

8.C.13.1.B "Compare the plans and policies proposed for Reconstruction (e.g., President Andrew Johnson, the Congressional Republicans) assessing their intended goals and possible consequences."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one goal of Johnson's approach and one goal of Congress's approach, then circle one policy used by each. Write J beside one possible consequence of Johnson's approach and C beside one possible consequence of Congress's approach.

Two Paths After the Civil War

1. In 1865, the Civil War ended, but a hard question remained: how should former Confederate states rejoin the Union? President Andrew Johnson wanted a quick return. He offered pardons to many former Confederates and let Southern states form new governments after they ended slavery and rejected secession. His plan did not require those states to give Black men the vote. Johnson hoped to restore the Union with limited federal control. Yet new state leaders could make rules that restricted the freedom of formerly enslaved people.

2. Many Congressional Republicans argued that reunion without equal legal rights was not enough. Southern governments had passed Black Codes, laws that limited Black people's choices about work and movement. Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1866 over Johnson's veto to protect citizenship rights. It also proposed the Fourteenth Amendment, which required states to provide equal protection of the laws. These measures aimed to protect formerly enslaved people from unfair state laws. They also increased federal power to challenge states that denied those rights.

3. In 1867, Congress took a further step through the Reconstruction Acts. These laws divided most former Confederate states into military districts and required new state constitutions that allowed Black men to vote. States also had to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment before returning to Congress. Supporters expected these rules to give Black citizens a voice and build governments that protected their rights. Opponents warned that military oversight would delay reunion and anger white Southerners. In practice, Black men gained political power, while violent groups tried to stop them from using it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Johnson's goal for rejoining the Union differ from the goal of many Congressional Republicans?

2. How did the two approaches differ on Black men's voting rights? What effect could that difference have on state governments?

3. Compare how Johnson's approach and the Civil Rights Act of 1866 dealt with state power over Black people's rights. What problem did Congress seek to prevent?

4. Compared with Johnson's quicker approach, what possible benefit and possible cost did the passage link to Congress's 1867 requirements?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are advising a newspaper editor in 1867 who must choose which Reconstruction approach to support. Write a five- or six-sentence editorial that recommends one approach, compares the plans' goals and policies, and predicts one benefit and one risk of your choice using evidence from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Rebuilding the Union

GRADE 8 · 8.C.13.1.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one goal of Johnson's approach and one goal of Congress's approach, then circle one policy used by each. Write J beside one possible consequence of Johnson's approach and C beside one possible consequence of Congress's approach. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Johnson's goal for rejoining the Union differ from the goal of many Congressional Republicans?	**Johnson wanted a quick reunion with limited federal control. Many Congressional Republicans wanted reunion to include legal rights for formerly enslaved people.**
2	How did the two approaches differ on Black men's voting rights? What effect could that difference have on state governments?	**Johnson's plan did not require voting rights for Black men. Congress required new state constitutions that allowed Black men to vote, which could give Black citizens a voice in state government.**
3	Compare how Johnson's approach and the Civil Rights Act of 1866 dealt with state power over Black people's rights. What problem did Congress seek to prevent?	**Johnson let states form new governments without requiring voting rights for Black men. The Civil Rights Act protected citizenship rights, aiming to prevent unfair state laws like the Black Codes from restricting Black people's freedom.**
4	Compared with Johnson's quicker approach, what possible benefit and possible cost did the passage link to Congress's 1867 requirements?	**Congress's requirements could give Black citizens political power and help protect their rights. Military oversight could delay reunion and anger white Southerners.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would urge our newspaper to support Congress's Reconstruction plan. Johnson wants a quick reunion with limited federal control, but his plan does not require voting rights for Black men. Congress seeks to protect rights by requiring new state constitutions that let Black men vote and by requiring states to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment before returning to Congress. These rules could help Black citizens shape governments that protect their rights. Military oversight might delay reunion and anger white Southerners. Even with that risk, political rights matter more than a fast return that leaves unfair state laws in place.

Accept either recommendation in Part 3 if the response accurately compares both approaches and supports a plausible benefit and risk with passage evidence. For Part 1, accept different correctly marked policies and consequences.