

After Lincoln's Death

Trace how a change in leadership changed Reconstruction politics.

USII.2.a "describing the impact of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and the political aftermath of the Civil War;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that names Lincoln's successor. Circle the two sentences that directly link Johnson's opposition to an action by Congress, then number the circles 1 and 2 in time order.

A New President, A New Struggle

- ① On April 14, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. Lincoln died the next morning. Vice President Andrew Johnson became president at a critical moment, just after the Civil War ended. Lincoln had discussed a plan for bringing former Confederate states back into the Union. His death removed the leader who had guided the nation through the war and put Johnson in charge of Reconstruction, the effort to rebuild the South and define freedom after slavery.
- ② Johnson favored a quick return for Southern states and gave many former Confederates pardons. Under his plan, Southern governments formed quickly, and several passed Black Codes that limited the rights of freedpeople. Many Republicans in Congress believed these policies threatened the results of the war. Because Johnson opposed stronger federal protections for freedpeople, Congress overrode his veto of the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and proposed the Fourteenth Amendment, which defined citizenship and required equal protection of the laws.
- ③ After Johnson's opposition to congressional Reconstruction measures, Congress took a larger role in directing policy. In 1867, it passed the Reconstruction Acts, placing most former Confederate states under five military districts and requiring new state governments to protect Black men's voting rights before readmission. Congress also overrode several of Johnson's vetoes. In 1868, the House impeached Johnson after he tried to remove Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, but the Senate fell one vote short of conviction. The conflict showed that Reconstruction would be shaped largely by Congress.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Lincoln's assassination change who led the nation during Reconstruction?

2 What actions or conditions under Johnson caused many Republicans in Congress to worry about the results of the war?

3 What two actions did Congress take because Johnson opposed stronger federal protections for freedpeople?

4 What was the result of Johnson's impeachment trial, and what did the conflict show about Reconstruction?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence newspaper brief explaining how Lincoln's assassination changed Reconstruction politics. Include the new president, the disagreement over Reconstruction, one action by Congress, and the result of the political conflict.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that names Lincoln's successor. Circle the two sentences that directly link Johnson's opposition to an action by Congress, then number the circles 1 and 2 in time order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Lincoln's assassination change who led the nation during Reconstruction?	Lincoln's death made Vice President Andrew Johnson president during Reconstruction.
2	What actions or conditions under Johnson caused many Republicans in Congress to worry about the results of the war?	Johnson supported a quick return for Southern states, pardoned many former Confederates, and Southern governments passed Black Codes that limited freedpeople's rights.
3	What two actions did Congress take because Johnson opposed stronger federal protections for freedpeople?	Congress overrode Johnson's veto of the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and proposed the Fourteenth Amendment.
4	What was the result of Johnson's impeachment trial, and what did the conflict show about Reconstruction?	The Senate fell one vote short of convicting Johnson. The conflict showed that Congress would largely shape Reconstruction.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Lincoln's assassination placed Andrew Johnson in the presidency during Reconstruction. Johnson supported a quick return for Southern states, while many members of Congress wanted stronger protections for freedpeople. Their disagreement led Congress to override a veto, propose the Fourteenth Amendment, and use military districts in the South. The struggle, including Johnson's impeachment, showed that Congress had become the main force shaping Reconstruction.

For the marking task, students should underline the sentence naming Andrew Johnson as president and circle the two sentences beginning with "Because Johnson" and "After Johnson's," numbered in that order. Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations that accurately connect Lincoln's death, Johnson's policies, and Congress's growing role.