

Reconstruction Power Check

Trace how different branches shaped plans for rebuilding the Union.

USII.2.d "describing the role of Congress and the Supreme Court in specific plans and policies including, but not limited to Lincoln's Ten Percent Plan;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each action taken by Congress and circle each Supreme Court ruling. Write L, C, or S beside sentences that show how Lincoln, Congress, or the Supreme Court affected Reconstruction policy.

Plans, Laws, and Court Rulings

- ① In December 1863, President Abraham Lincoln announced the Ten Percent Plan while the Civil War was still being fought. He offered a way for a Confederate state to return to the Union. When 10 percent of the state's voters from the 1860 election took an oath of loyalty to the United States and accepted emancipation, they could create a new state government. Lincoln hoped this quick plan would weaken the Confederacy and begin rebuilding the nation after the war.
- ② Many members of Congress thought Lincoln's plan was too easy. In 1864, Congress passed the Wade-Davis Bill, which required a majority of a former Confederate state's white male citizens to take a stricter loyalty oath before rebuilding its government. Lincoln used a pocket veto, so the bill did not become law. After Lincoln's death, Congress took a larger role in Reconstruction. The Reconstruction Acts of 1867 required most former Confederate states to write new constitutions, allow Black men to vote, and ratify the Fourteenth Amendment.
- ③ The Supreme Court did not design Reconstruction plans, but its rulings interpreted limits on government power. In *Ex parte Milligan* in 1866, the Court said civilians could not be tried by military courts where regular civil courts were open. In *Texas v. White* in 1869, the Court ruled that a state could not legally leave the Union. Later decisions, including *United States v. Cruikshank* in 1876, limited federal power to protect individuals from some violence and voting-rights violations. These rulings affected how Reconstruction policies worked.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What did Lincoln's Ten Percent Plan require before a former Confederate state could create a new government?

2 How did Congress respond to Lincoln's Ten Percent Plan in the Wade-Davis Bill?

3 Name two requirements Congress set in the Reconstruction Acts of 1867.

4 How did the Supreme Court affect Reconstruction differently from Congress? Use one Court ruling from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four- or five-sentence policy note to a lawmaker in 1867. Recommend one requirement for former Confederate states, explain what Congress can do, and explain how one Supreme Court ruling could affect the policy.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each action taken by Congress and circle each Supreme Court ruling. Write L, C, or S beside sentences that show how Lincoln, Congress, or the Supreme Court affected Reconstruction policy. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did Lincoln's Ten Percent Plan require before a former Confederate state could create a new government?	Ten percent of the state's 1860 voters had to take a loyalty oath to the United States and accept emancipation.
2	How did Congress respond to Lincoln's Ten Percent Plan in the Wade-Davis Bill?	Congress proposed a stricter plan requiring a majority of a former Confederate state's white male citizens to take a stricter loyalty oath. Lincoln pocket-vetoed the bill.
3	Name two requirements Congress set in the Reconstruction Acts of 1867.	Answers include writing new state constitutions, allowing Black men to vote, and ratifying the Fourteenth Amendment.
4	How did the Supreme Court affect Reconstruction differently from Congress? Use one Court ruling from the passage.	Congress made Reconstruction requirements and plans, while the Supreme Court interpreted legal limits on government power. For example, Ex parte Milligan limited military trials of civilians where civil courts were open.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Congress should require former Confederate states to adopt constitutions that protect voting. Congress can set conditions for rebuilding state governments, as it did in the Reconstruction Acts. However, the Supreme Court can limit military methods, because Ex parte Milligan said civilians could not be tried by military courts where civil courts were open. Congress should use lawful civil processes to enforce its policy.

Accept policy notes that include a clear recommendation, an accurate congressional role, and an accurate effect of a Supreme Court ruling from the passage. Students may use Ex parte Milligan, Texas v. White, or United States v. Cruikshank.