

Name _____



Curtis's Stand

Directions: Read the excerpt from Justice Benjamin Curtis's dissent in the Dred Scott decision. Then rewrite the meaning in modern, plain English using 4-6 clear sentences.

Original Dissent Excerpt (Simplified for Students)

Justice Curtis argued that African Americans **had been recognized as citizens** in several states at the country's founding. Therefore, he believed the Supreme Court was **wrong** to say they could not be citizens of the United States. He stated that the Constitution did not give the Court the power to take away citizenship from a whole group of people.

Your Rewrite in Plain English (Write 4-6 sentences.)

Quick Check Question: Why do you think Curtis disagreed so strongly with the Court's ruling?
