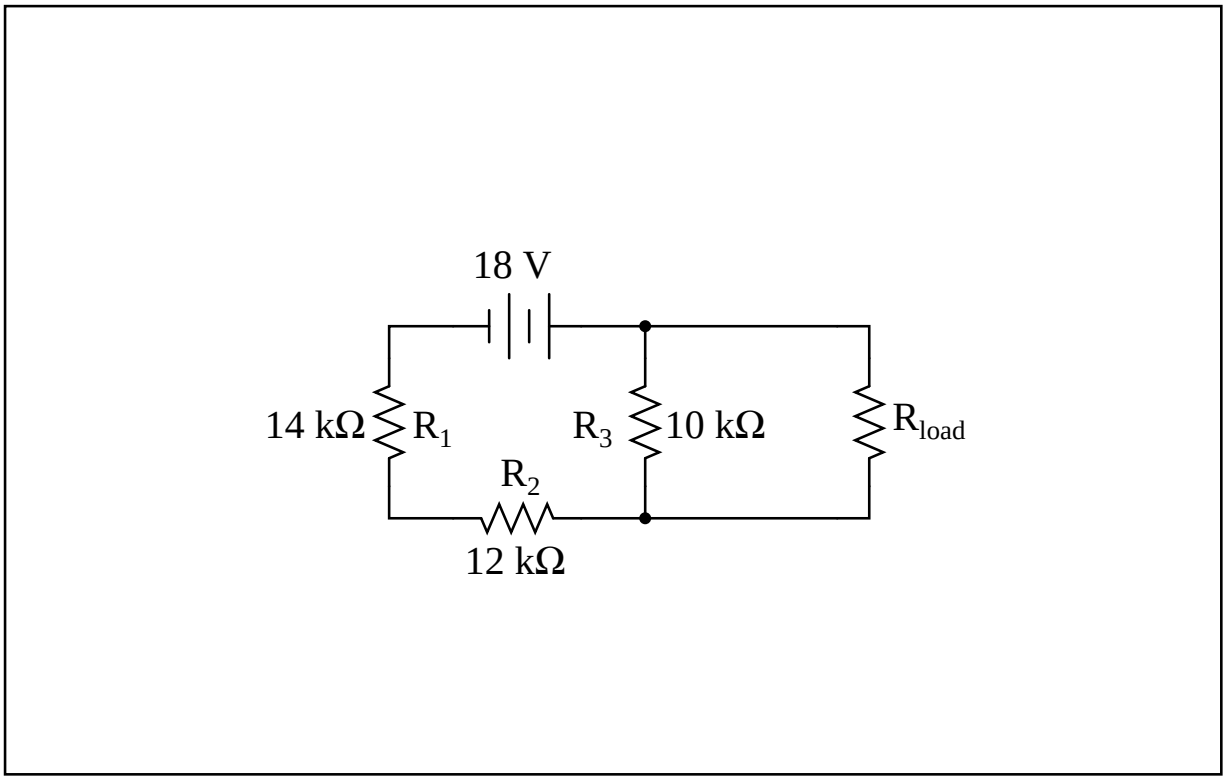
Question 1

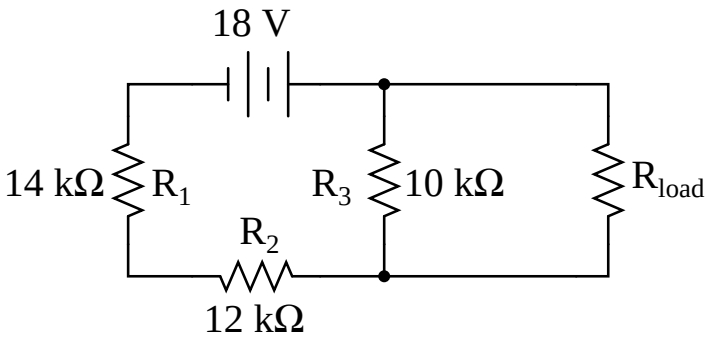
Animation: Applying Thévenin's theorem

This question consists of a series of images (one per page) that form an animation. Flip the pages with your fingers to view this animation (or click on the "next" button on your viewer) frame-by-frame.

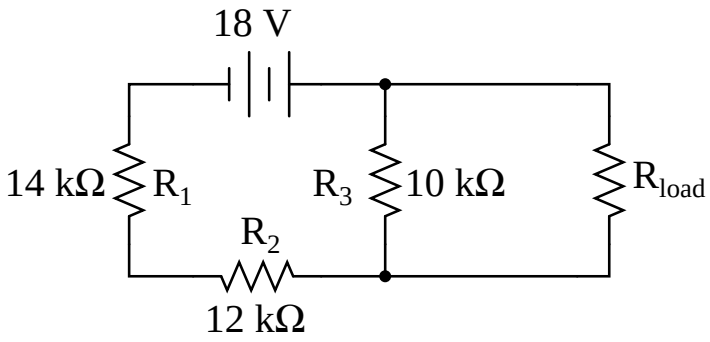
The following animation shows the steps involved in "Thévenizing" a circuit.


18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
Rload
R2
12 kΩ

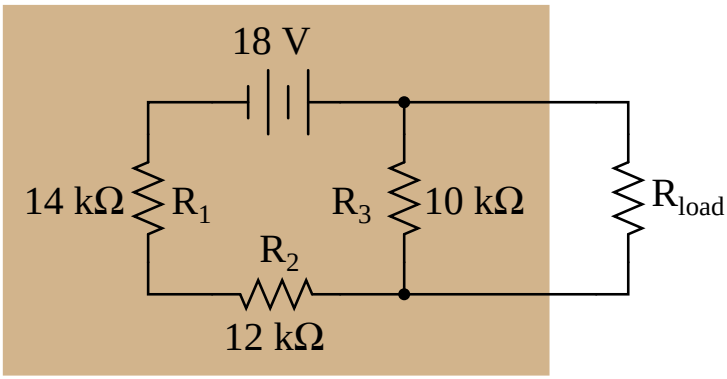
This is our original circuit:



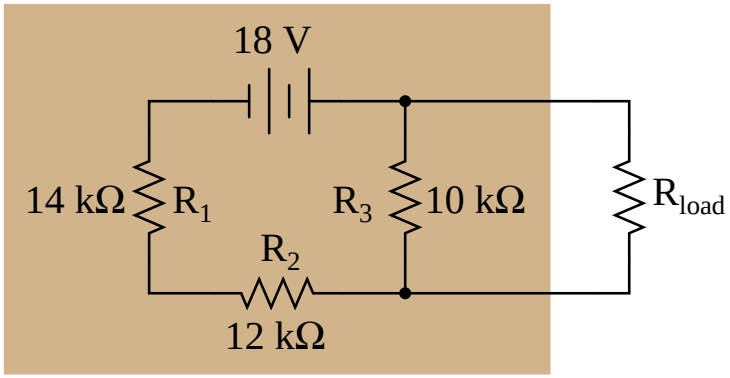
We may use Thevenin's theorem
to simplify this portion of the circuit . . .



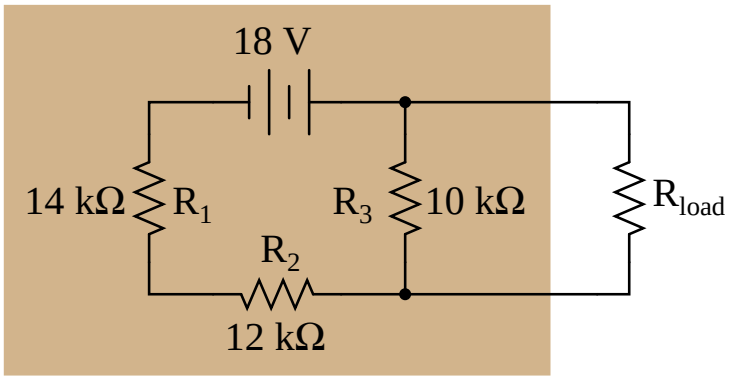
We may use Thevenin's theorem
to simplify this portion of the circuit . . .

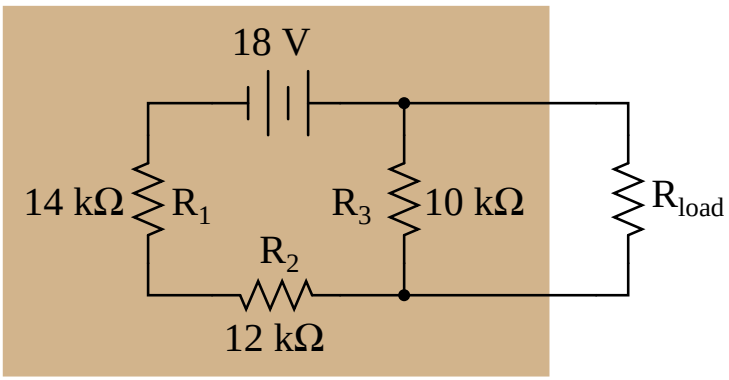


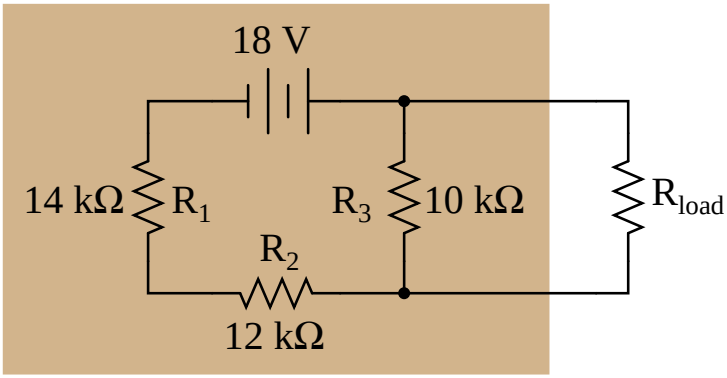
We may use Thevenin's theorem to simplify this portion of the circuit . . .



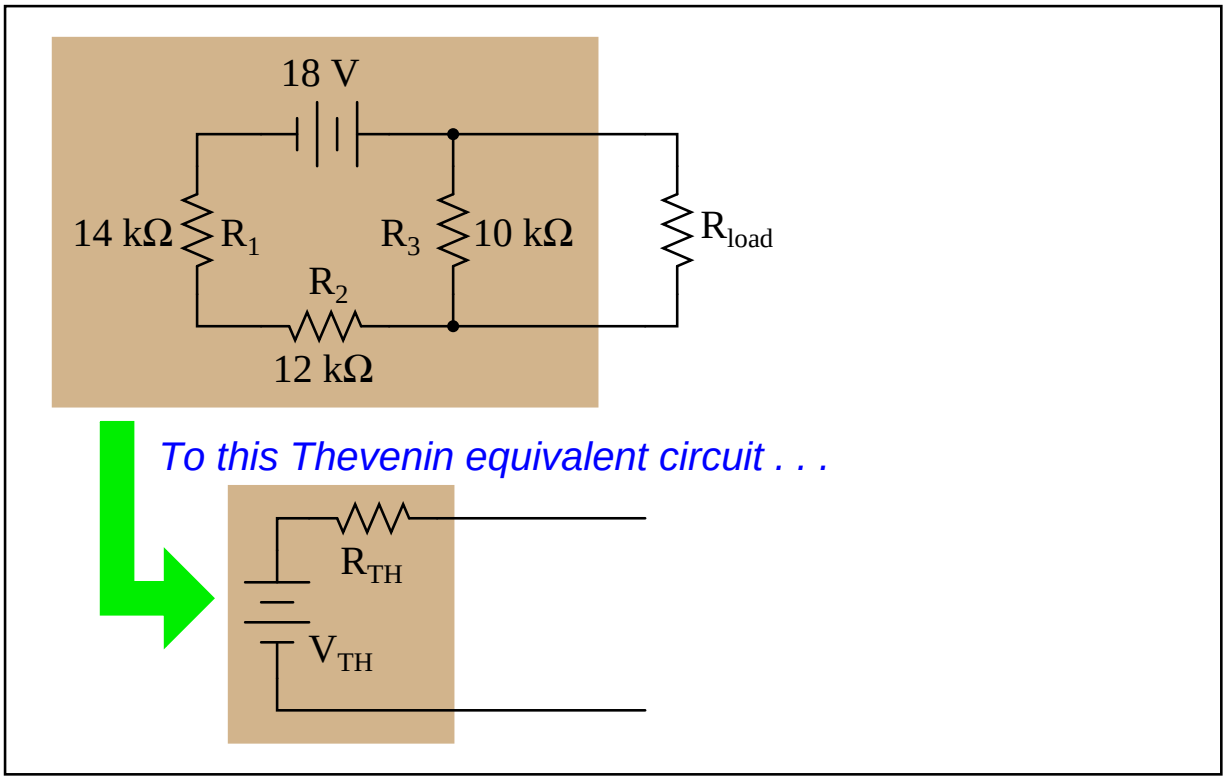
We may use Thevenin's theorem to simplify this portion of the circuit . . .

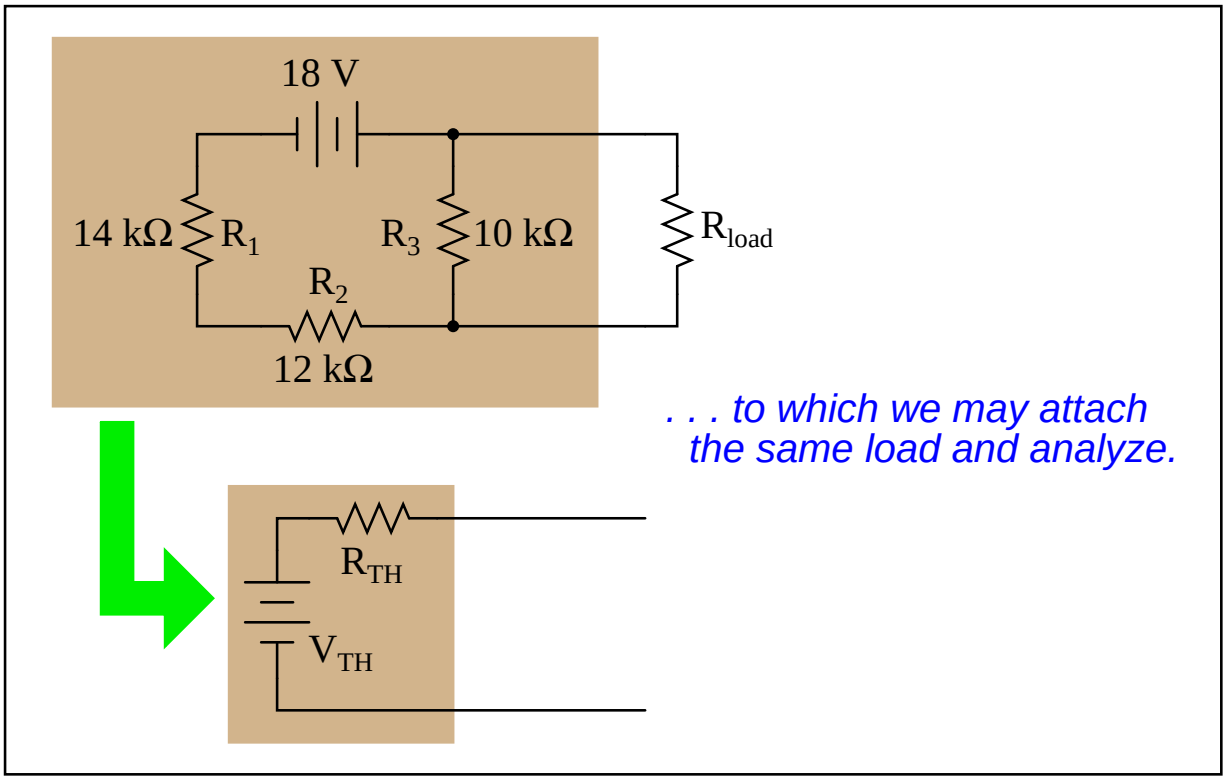


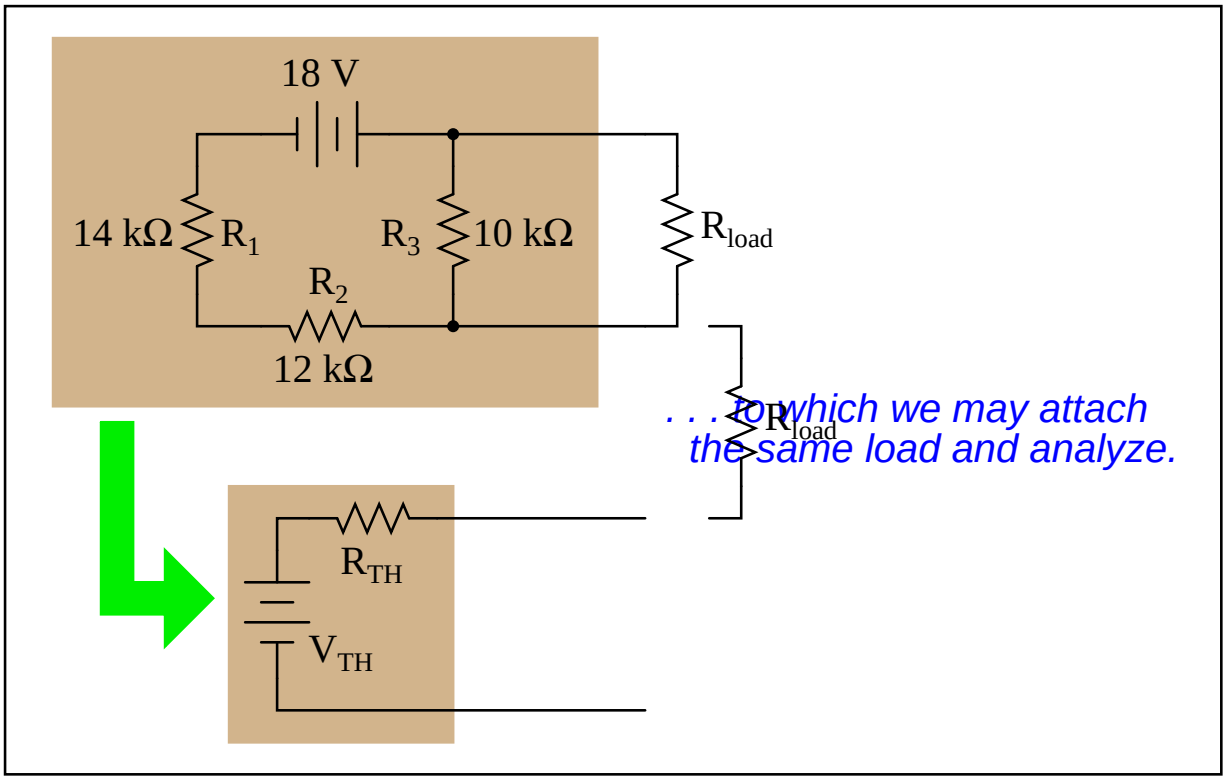

18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
Rload
R2
12 kΩ

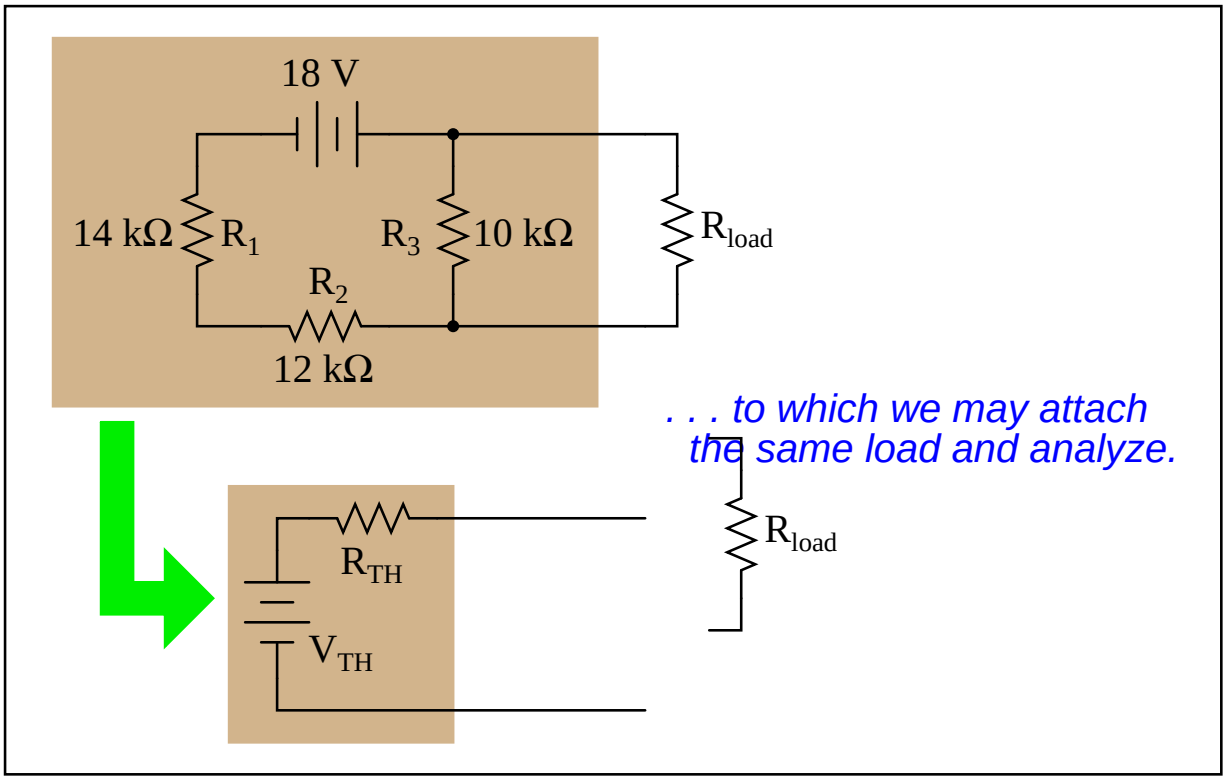


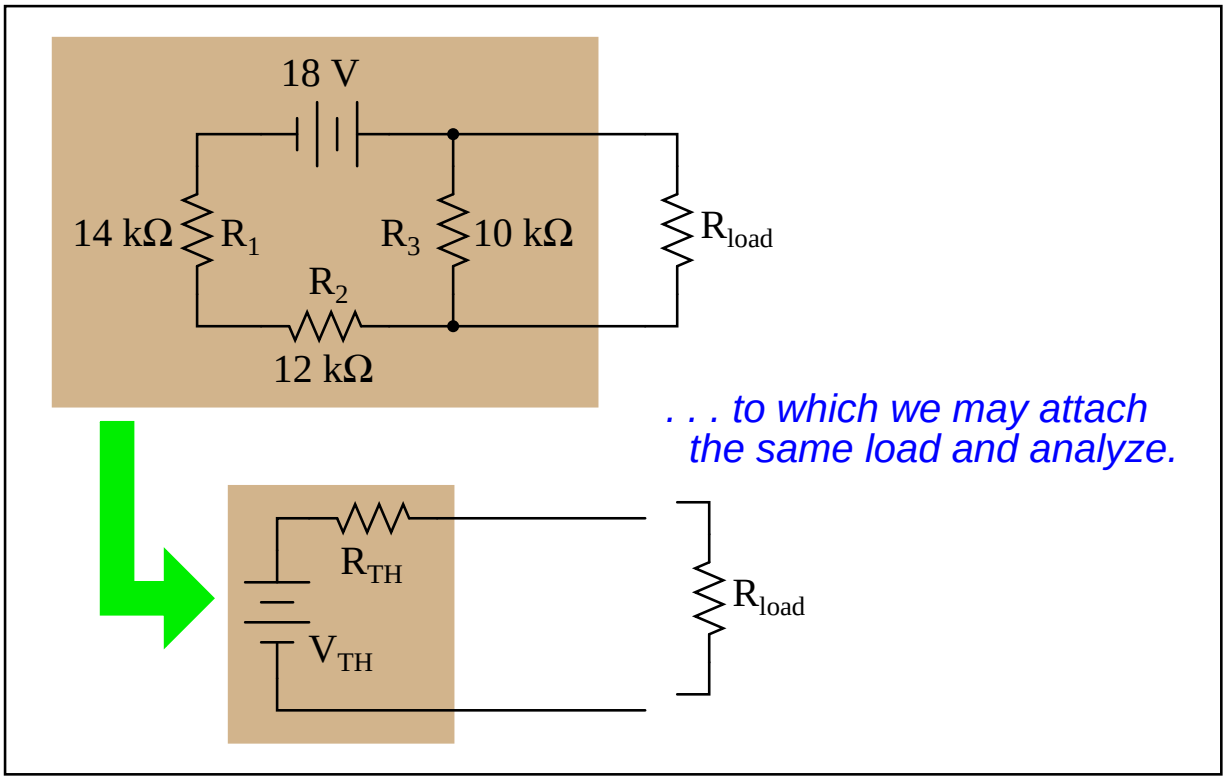
To this Thevenin equivalent circuit . . .

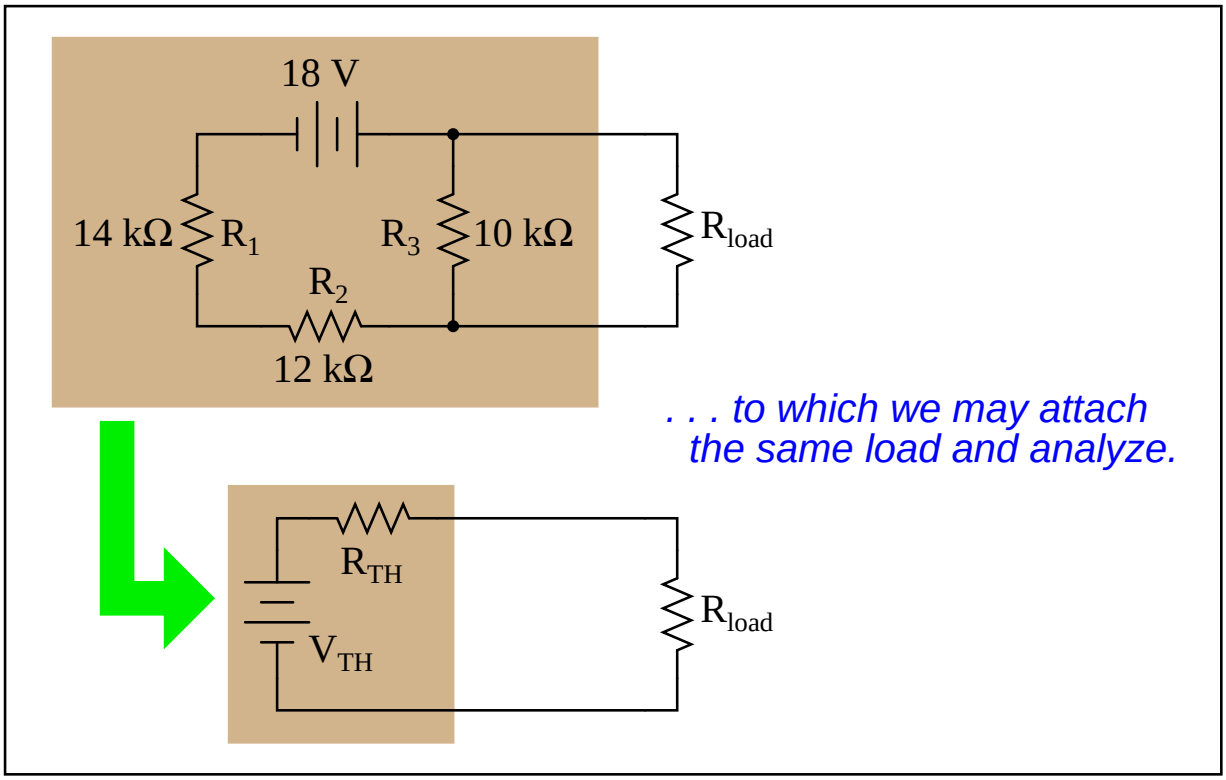

18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
Rload
R2
12 kΩ
To this Thevenin equivalent circuit . . .
RTH
VTH

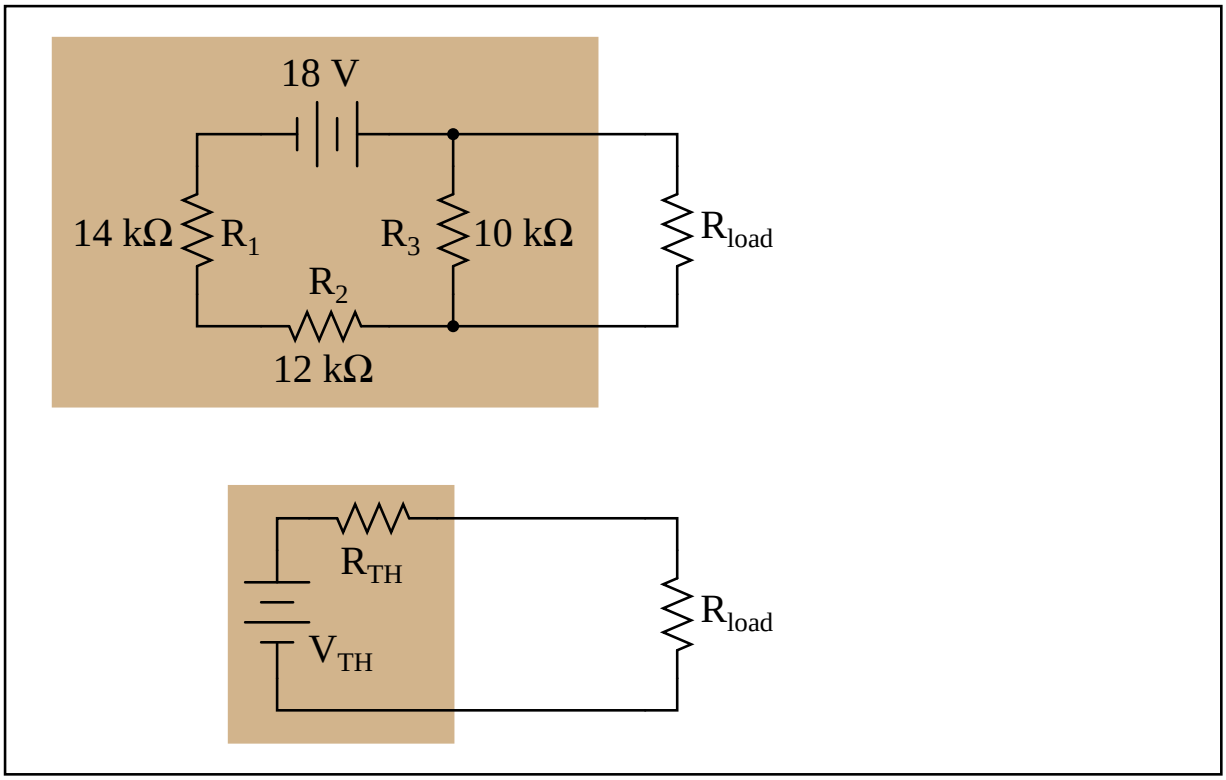

18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
Rload
R2
12 kΩ
. . . to which we may attach
the same load and analyze.
RTH
VTH

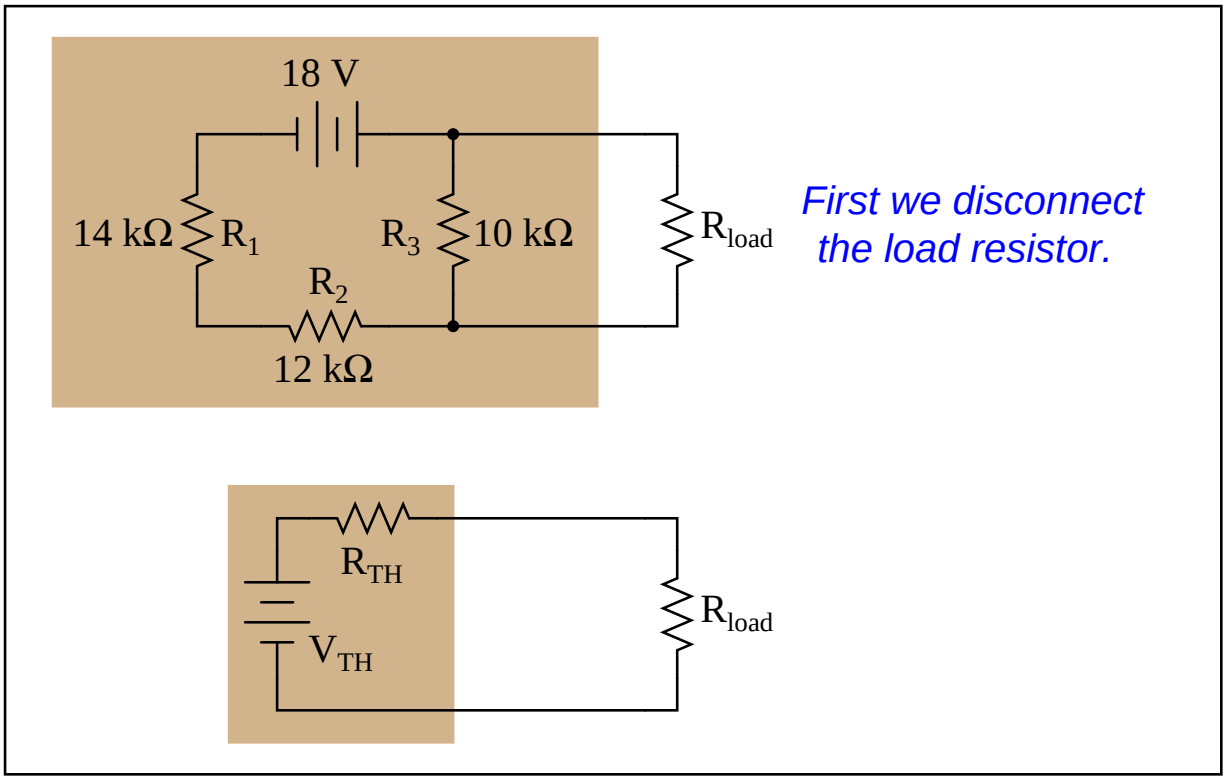

18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
Rload
R2
12 kΩ
. . . to which we may attach
the same load and analyze.
Rload
RTH
VTH

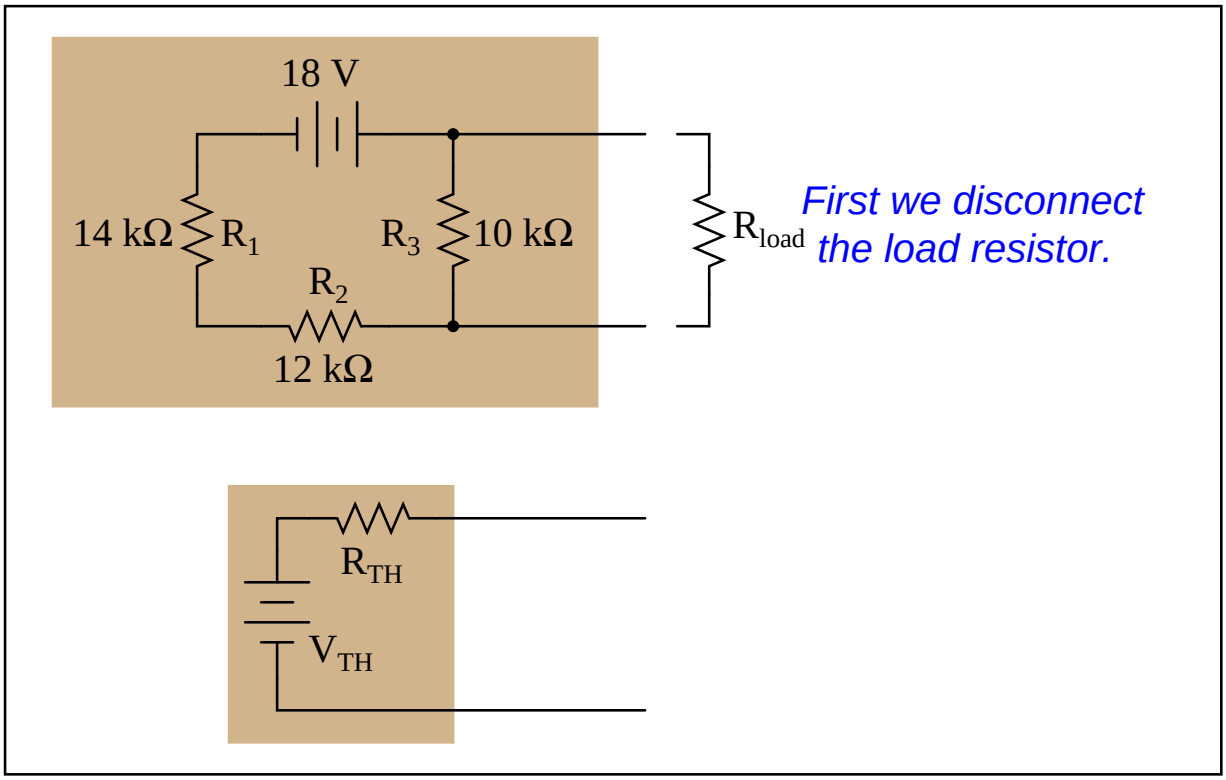

18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
Rload
R2
12 kΩ
. . . to which we may attach
the same load and analyze.
RTH
VTH
Rload

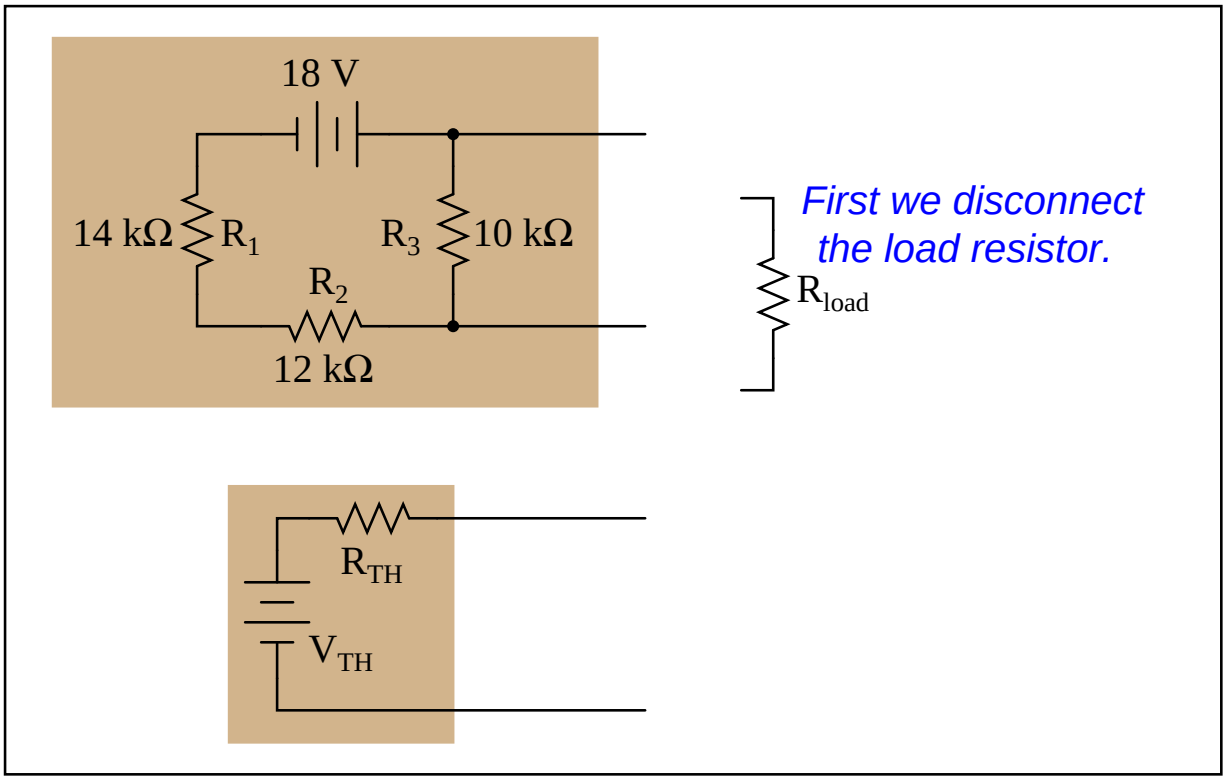

18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
Rload
R2
12 kΩ
. . . to which we may attach
the same load and analyze.
RTH
VTH
Rload

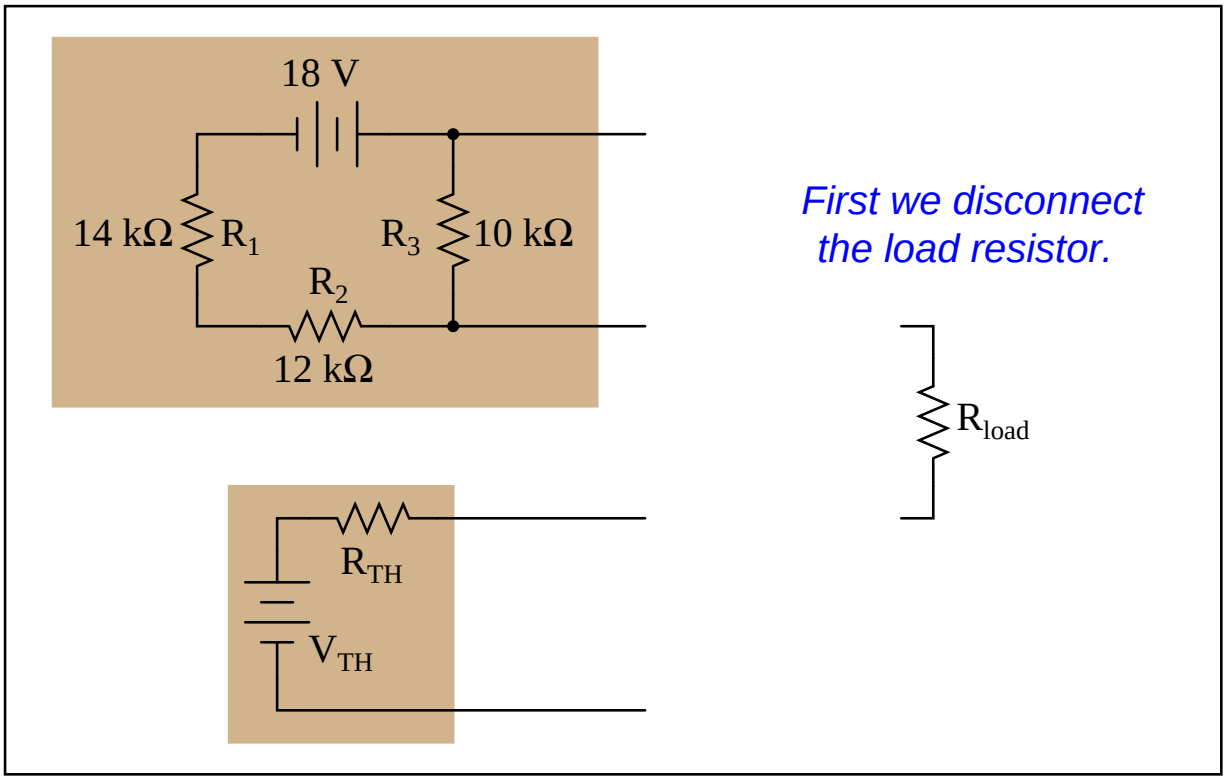

18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
Rload
R2
12 kΩ
. . . to which we may attach
the same load and analyze.
RTH
VTH
Rload

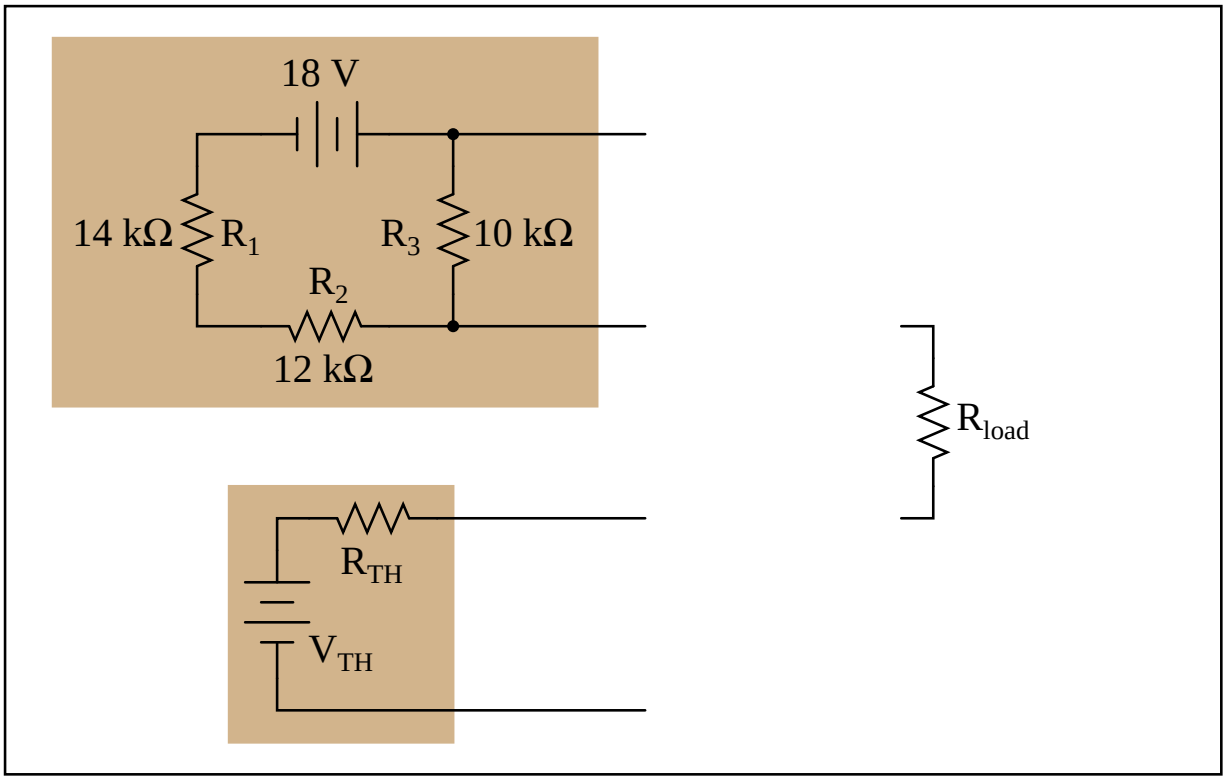

18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
Rload
R2
12 kΩ
RTH
VTH
Rload

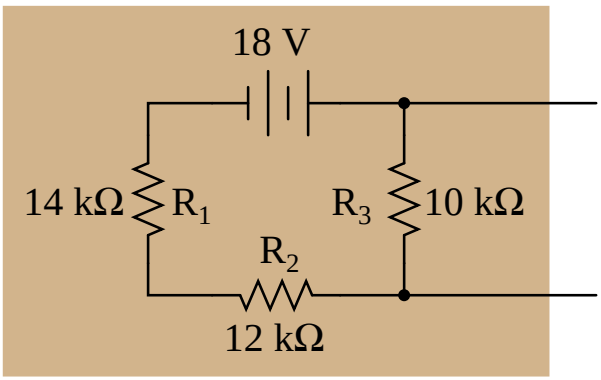

18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
Rload
R2
12 kΩ
First we disconnect
the load resistor.
RTH
VTH
Rload


18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
Rload
First we disconnect
the load resistor.
RTH
VTH

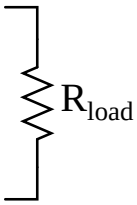

18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
First we disconnect
the load resistor.
Rload
RTH
VTH

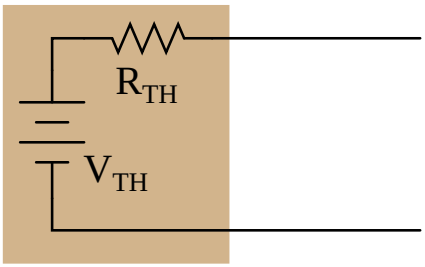

18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
RTH
VTH
First we disconnect
the load resistor.
Rload

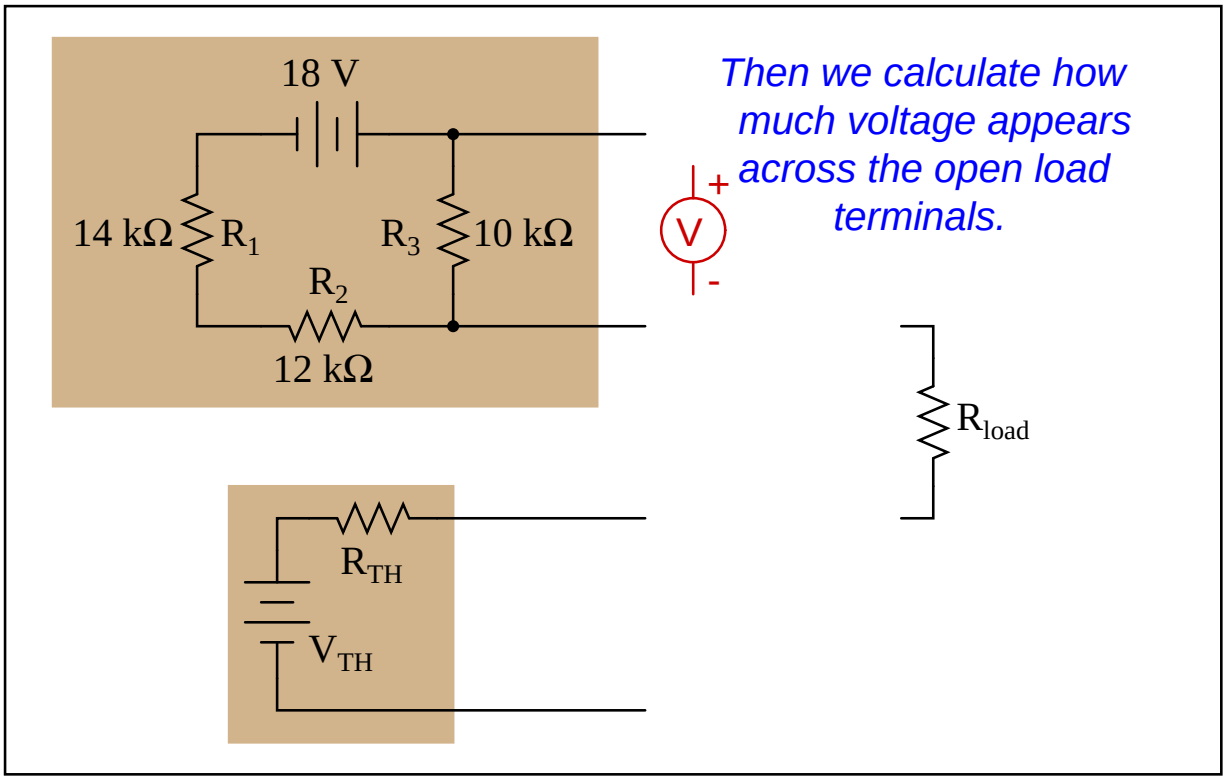

18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
Rload
RTH
VTH

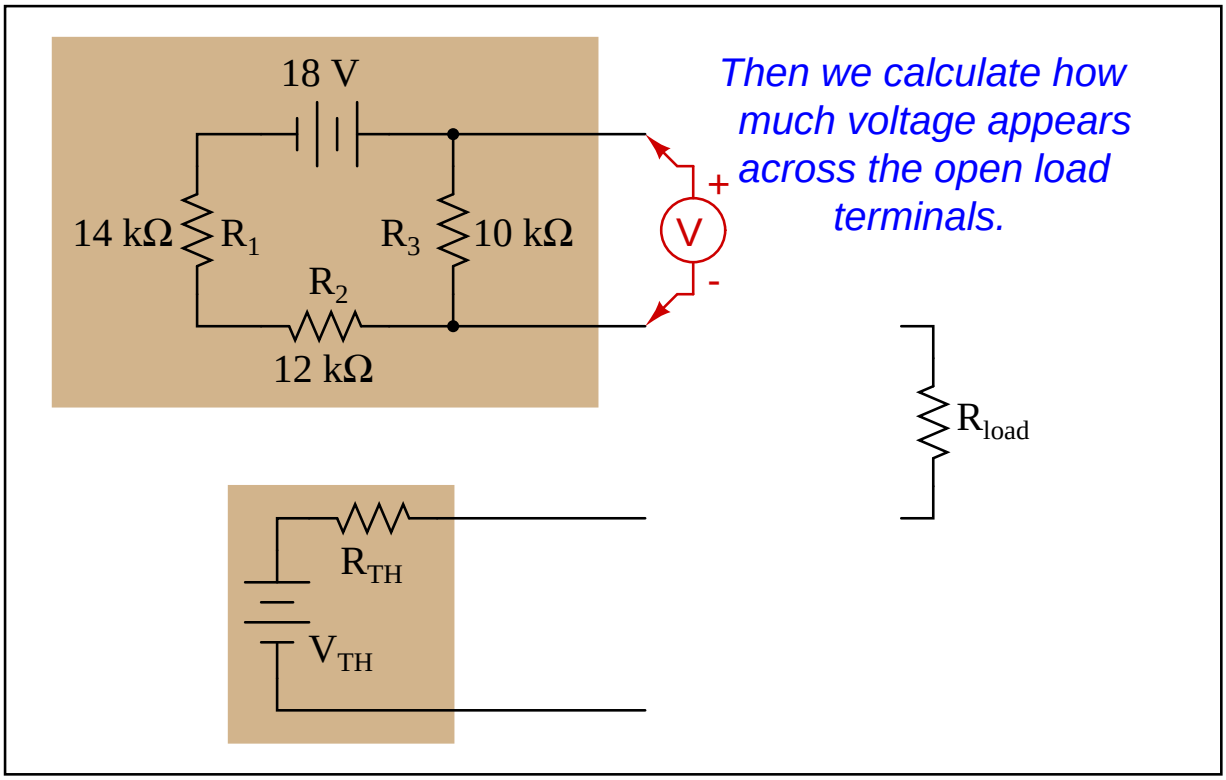


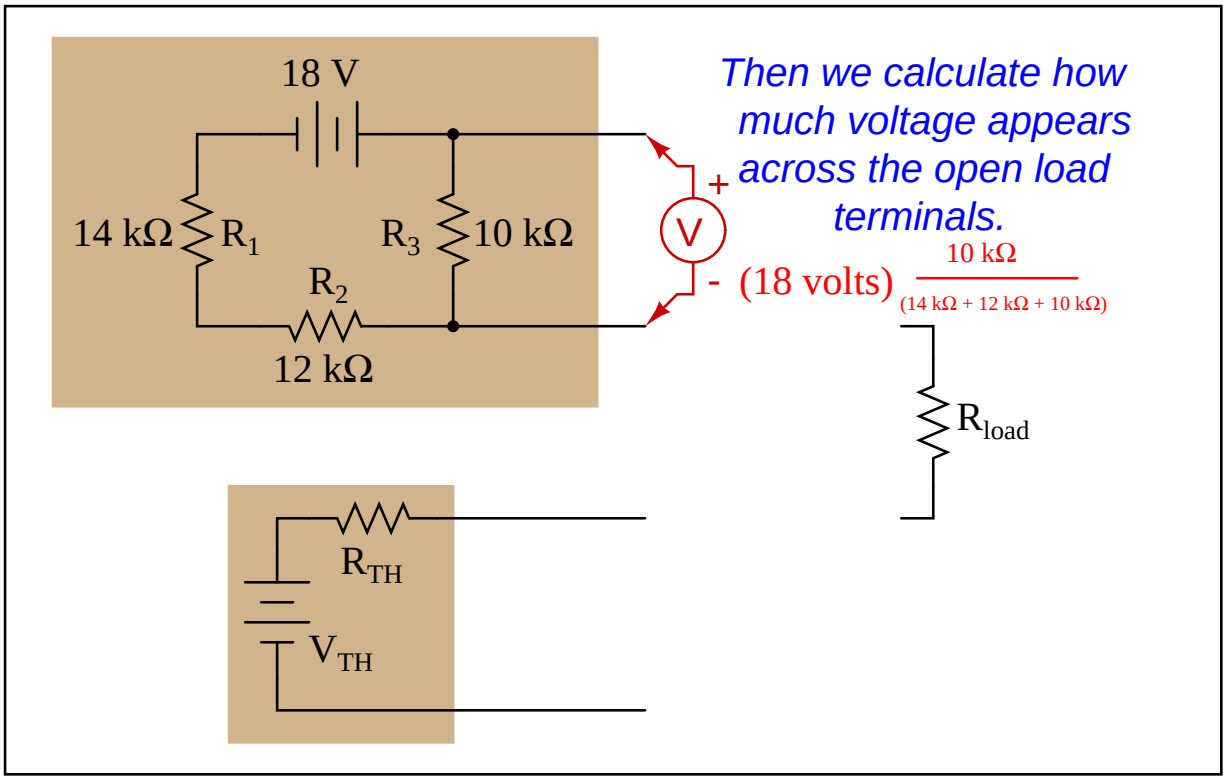
Then we calculate how much voltage appears across the open load terminals.

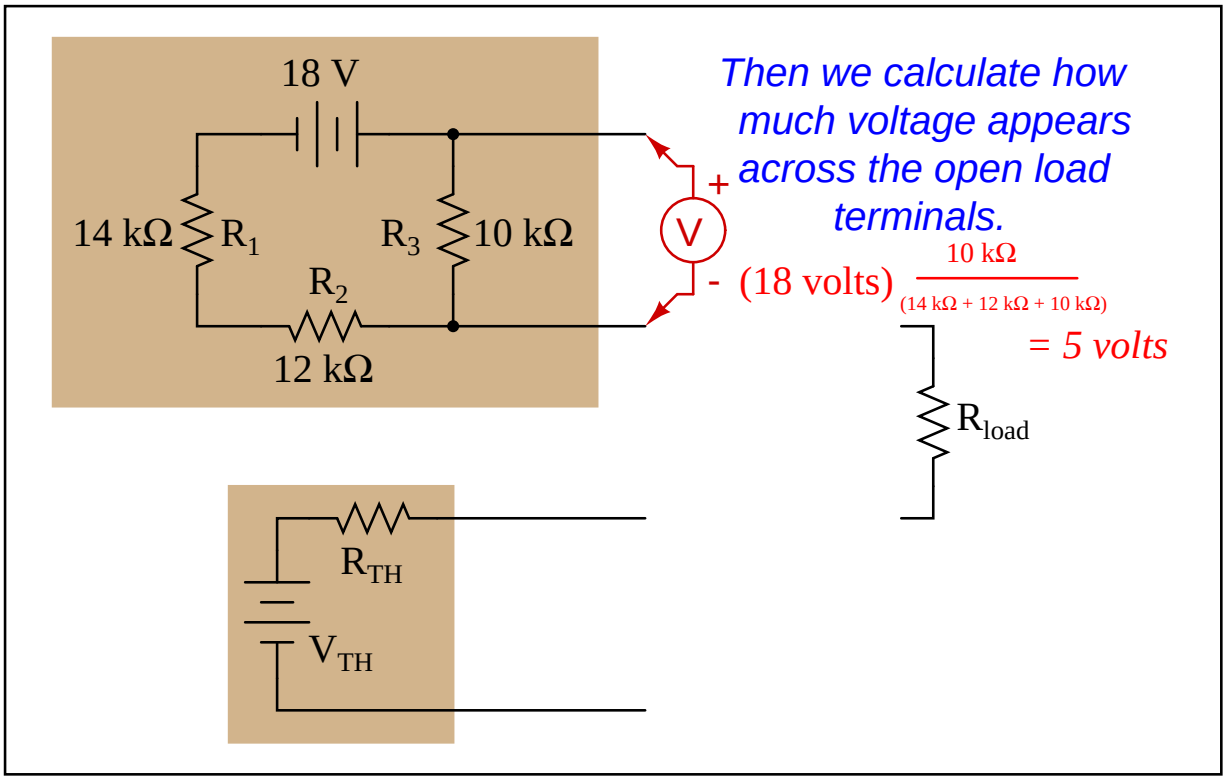


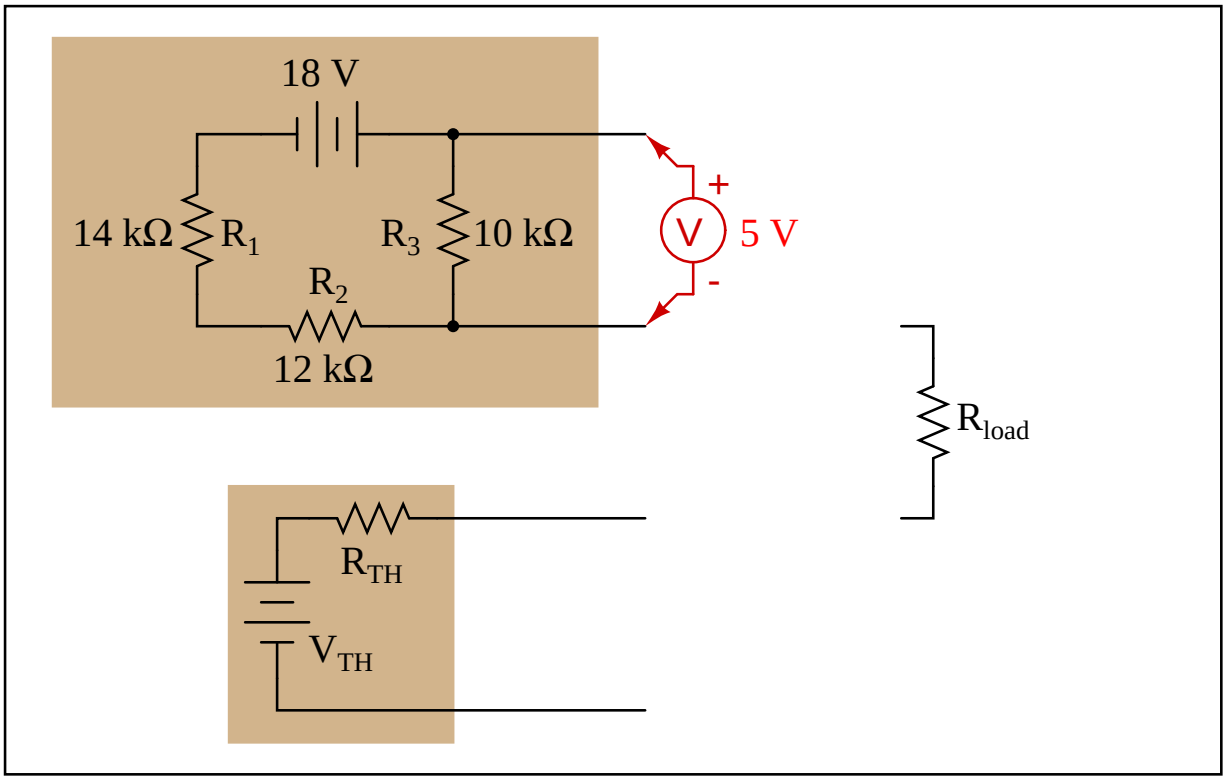


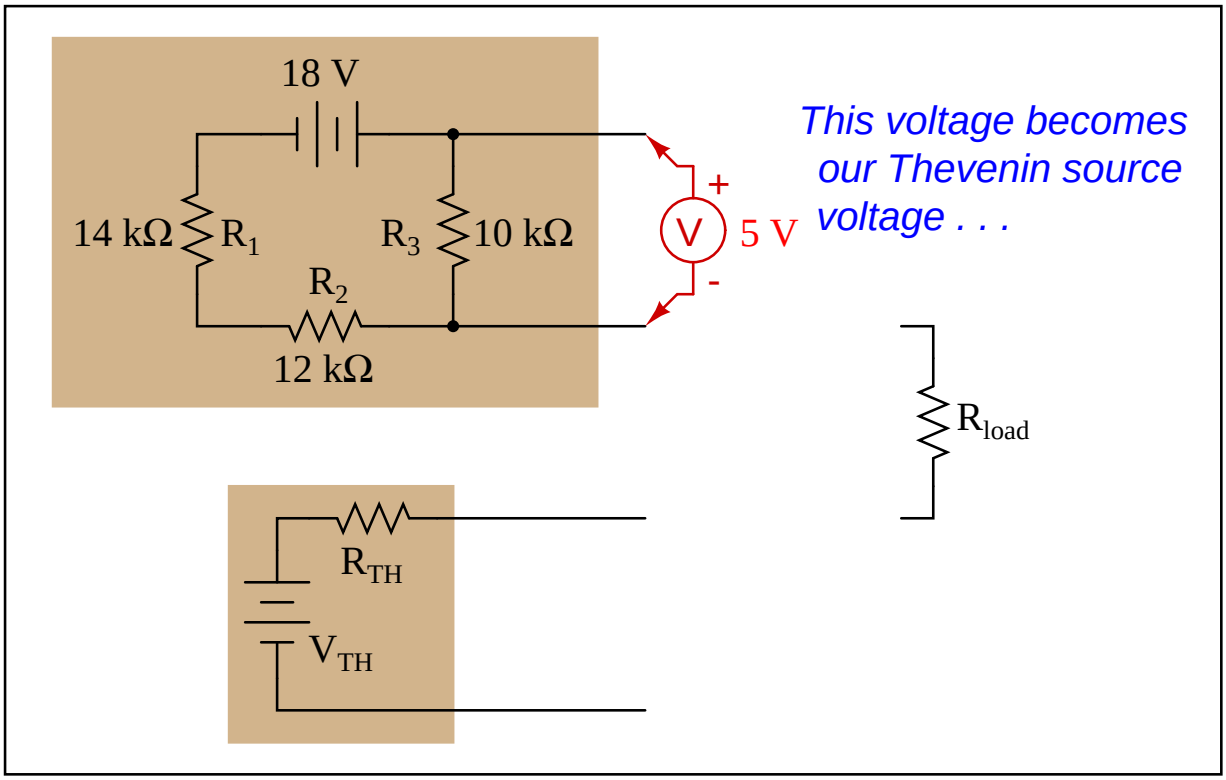

18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
+
V
-
Then we calculate how much voltage appears across the open load terminals.
Rload
RTH
VTH

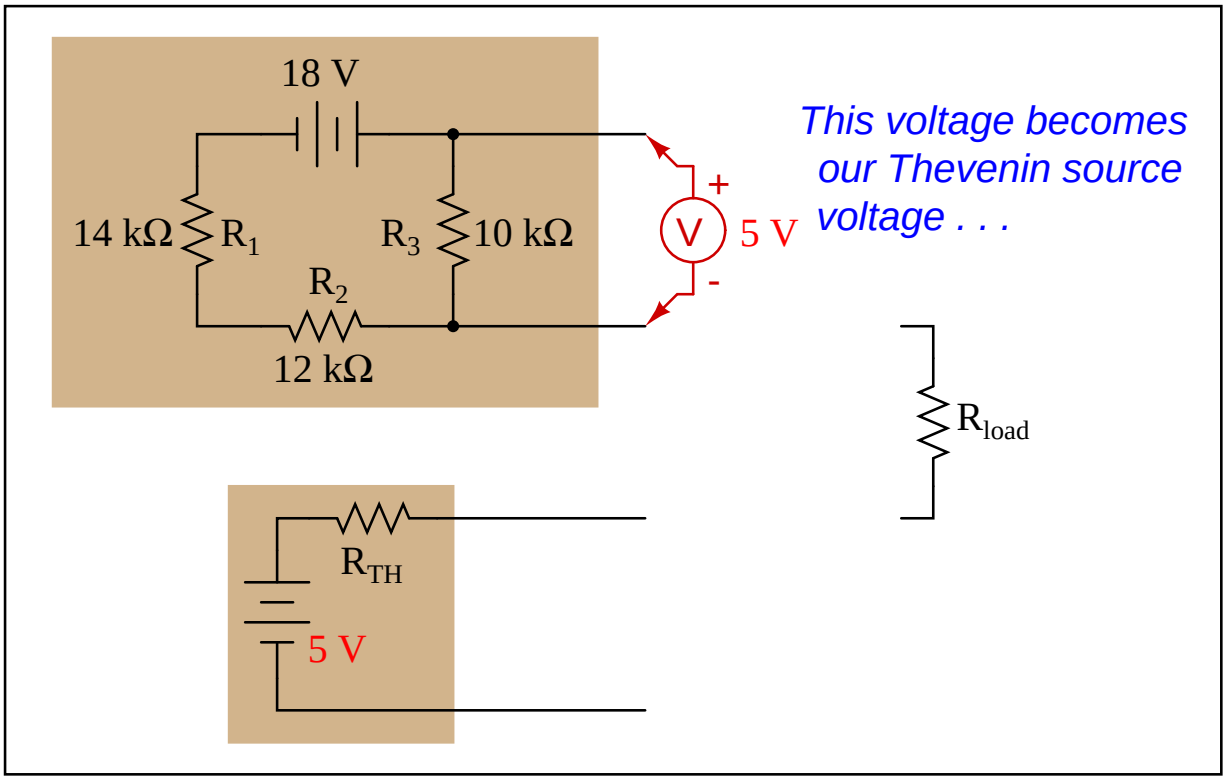

18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
+
V
-
Then we calculate how much voltage appears across the open load terminals.
Rload
RTH
VTH

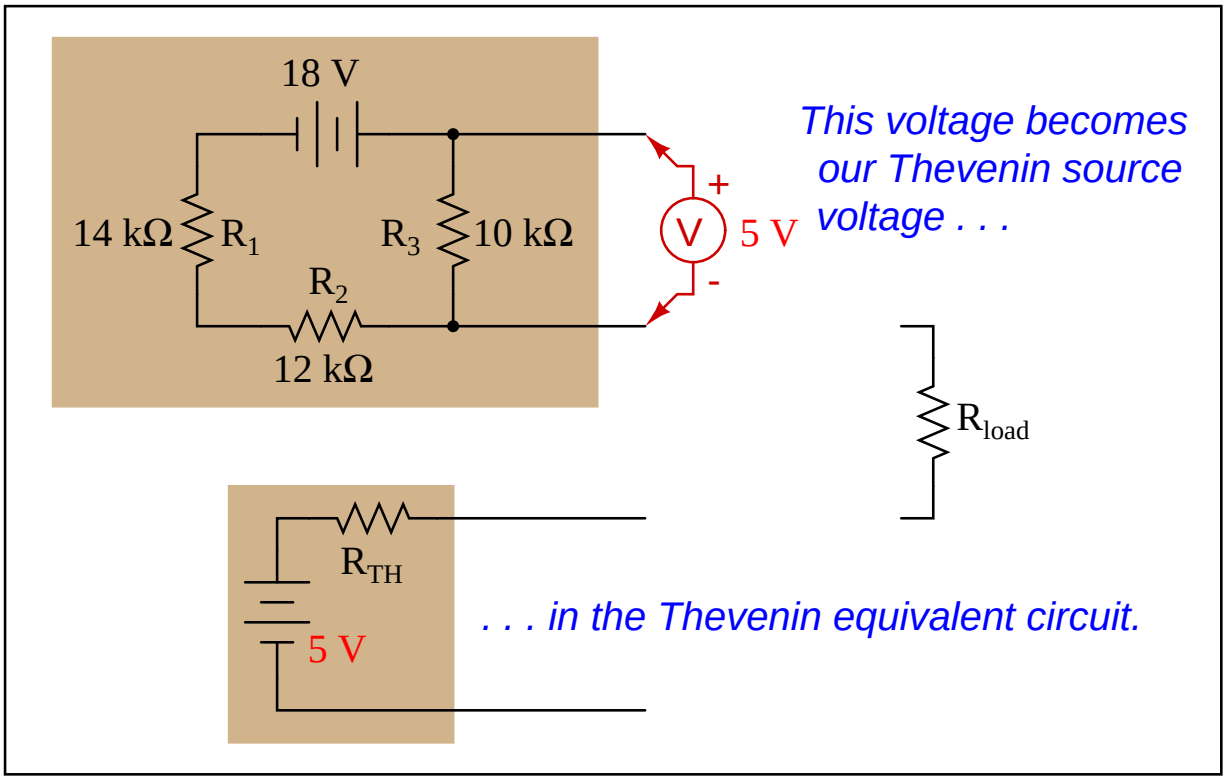

18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
+
V
-
Then we calculate how much voltage appears across the open load terminals.
(18 volts) 10 kΩ / (14 kΩ + 12 kΩ + 10 kΩ)
Rload
RTH
VTH

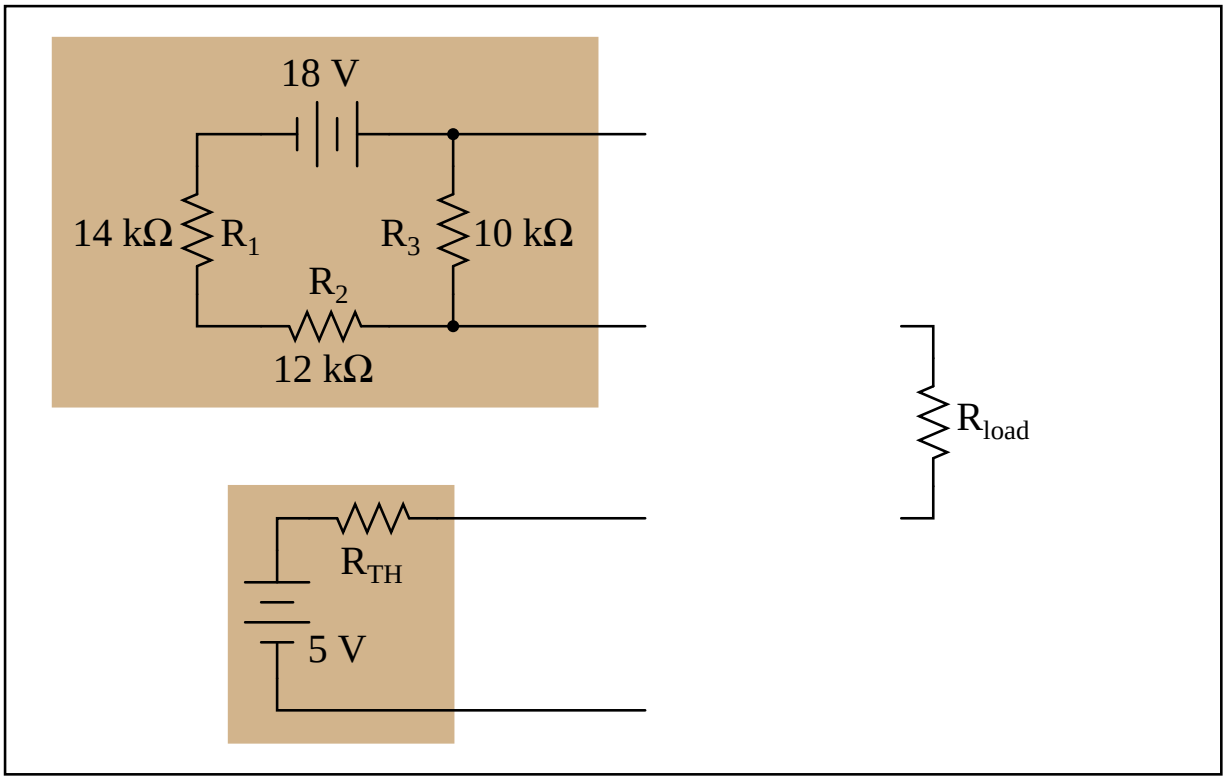

18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
+
V
-
Then we calculate how much voltage appears across the open load terminals.
(18 volts) 10 kΩ / (14 kΩ + 12 kΩ + 10 kΩ)
= 5 volts
Rload
RTH
VTH

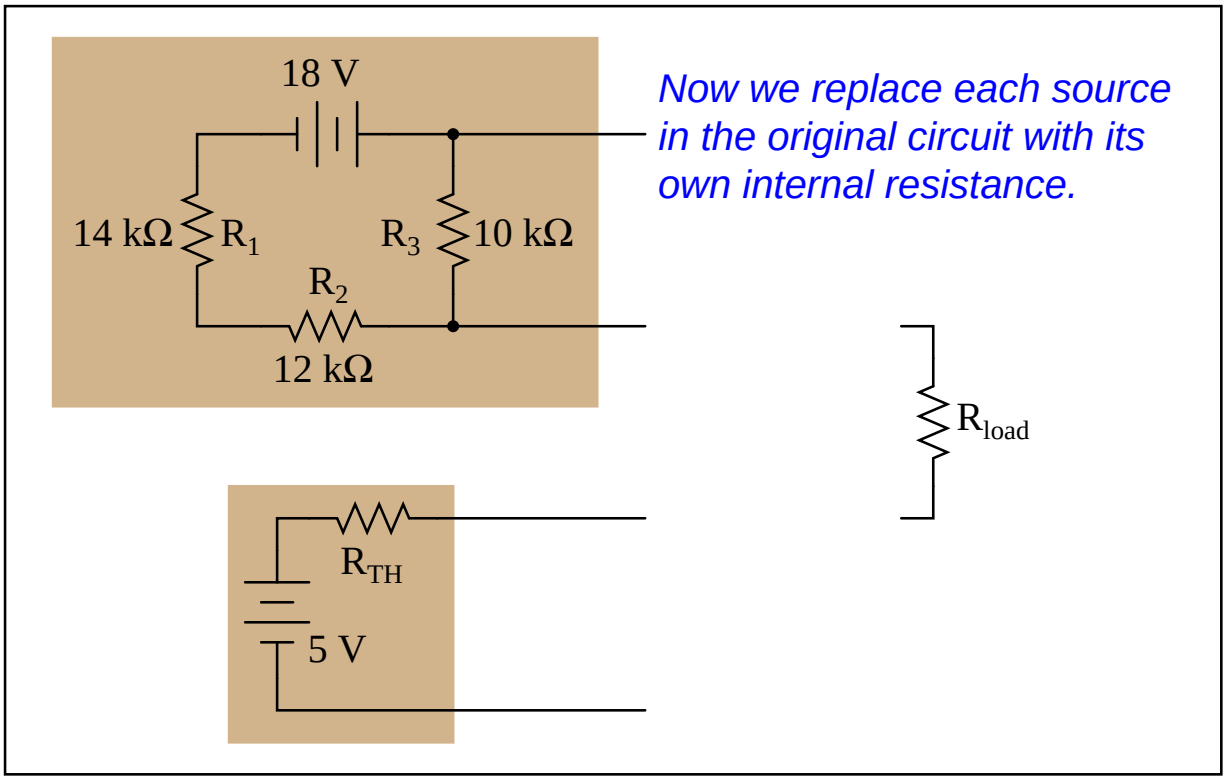

18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
+
V
5 V
-
Rload
RTH
VTH


18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
+
V
5 V
-
This voltage becomes our Thevenin source voltage . . .
Rload
RTH
VTH

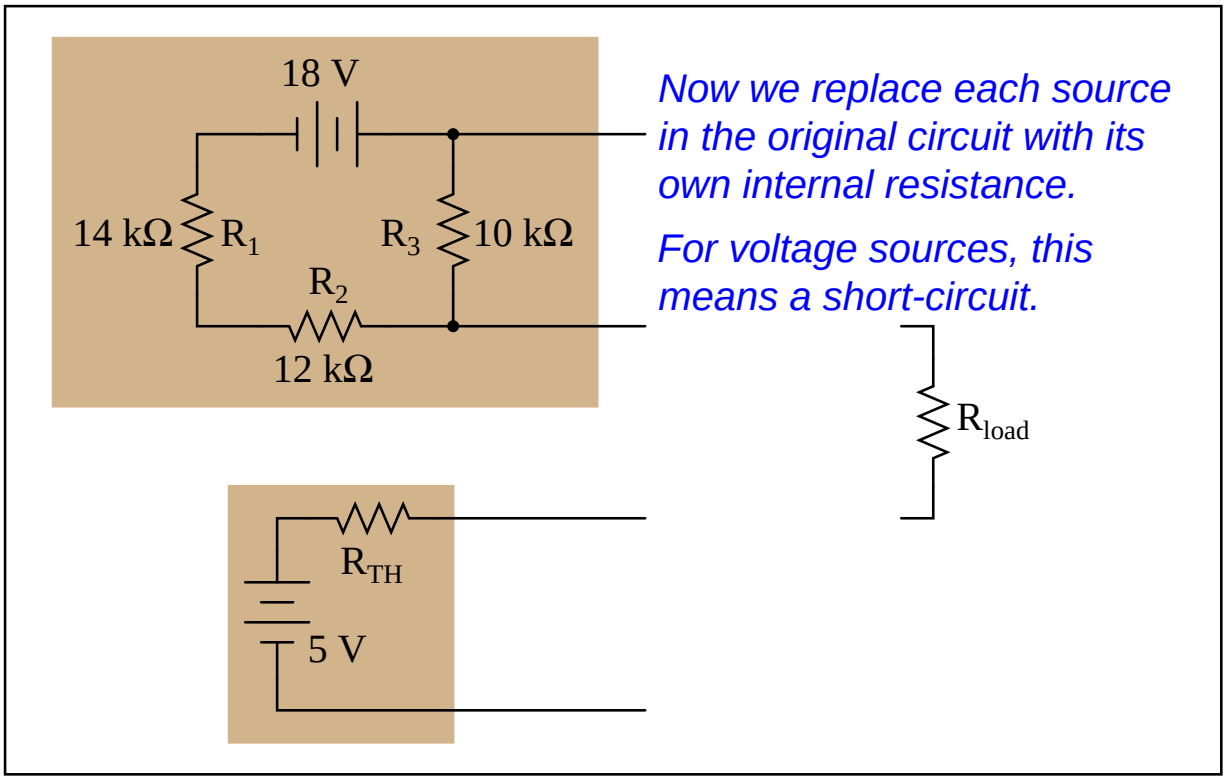

18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
+
V
5 V
-
This voltage becomes our Thevenin source voltage . . .
Rload
RTH
5 V


18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
+
V
5 V
-
This voltage becomes our Thevenin source voltage . . .
Rload
RTH
5 V
. . . in the Thevenin equivalent circuit.


18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
Rload
RTH
5 V

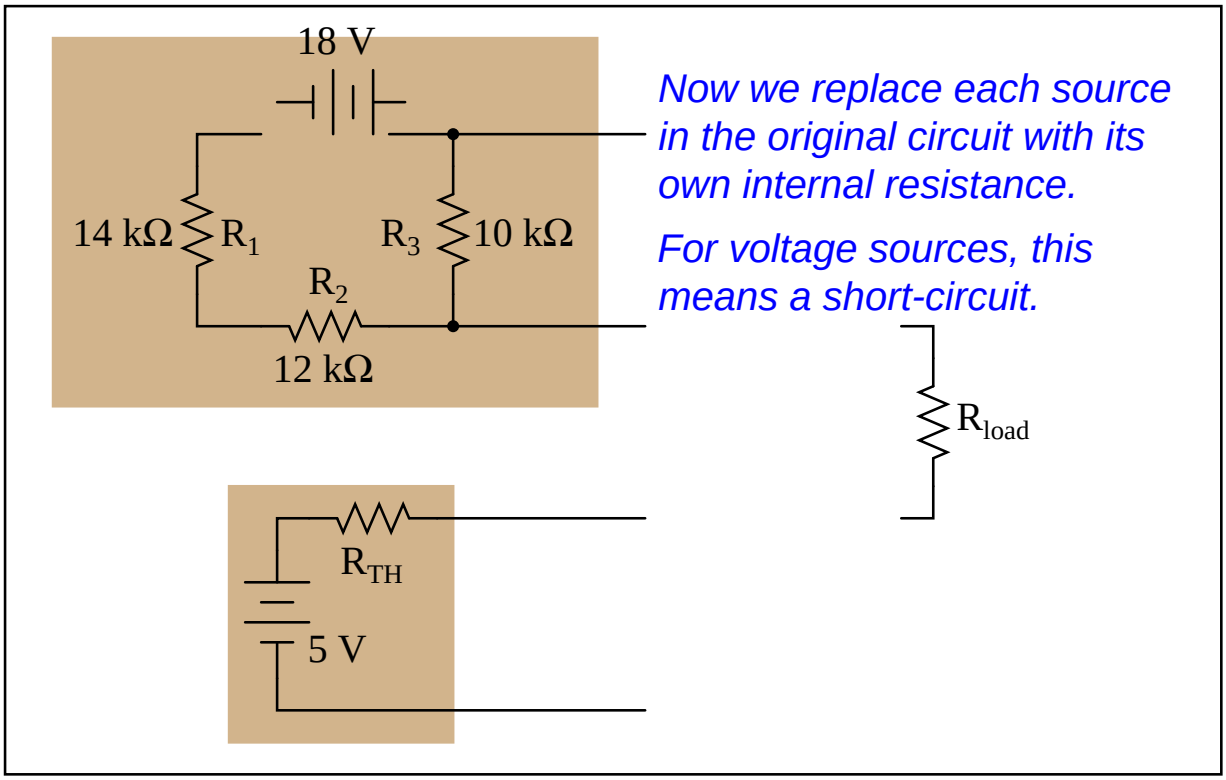


Now we replace each source in the original circuit with its own internal resistance.



Now we replace each source in the original circuit with its own internal resistance.

For voltage sources, this means a short-circuit.



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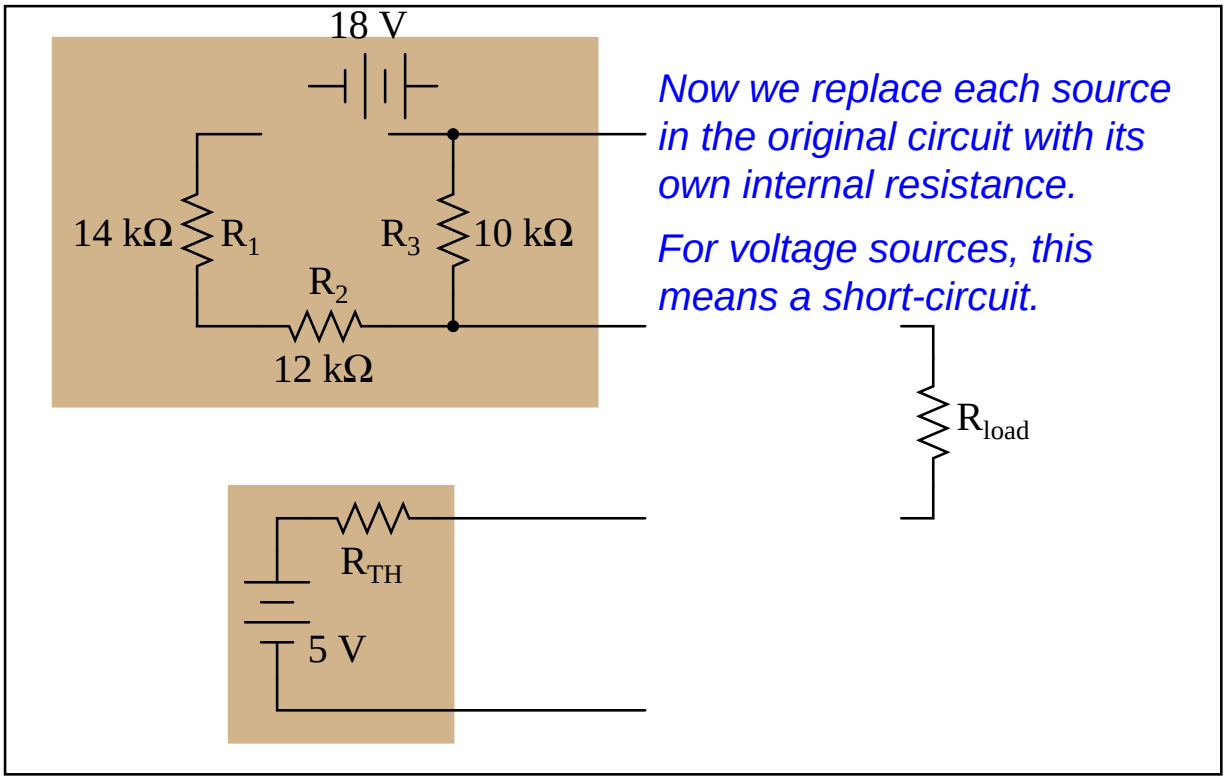
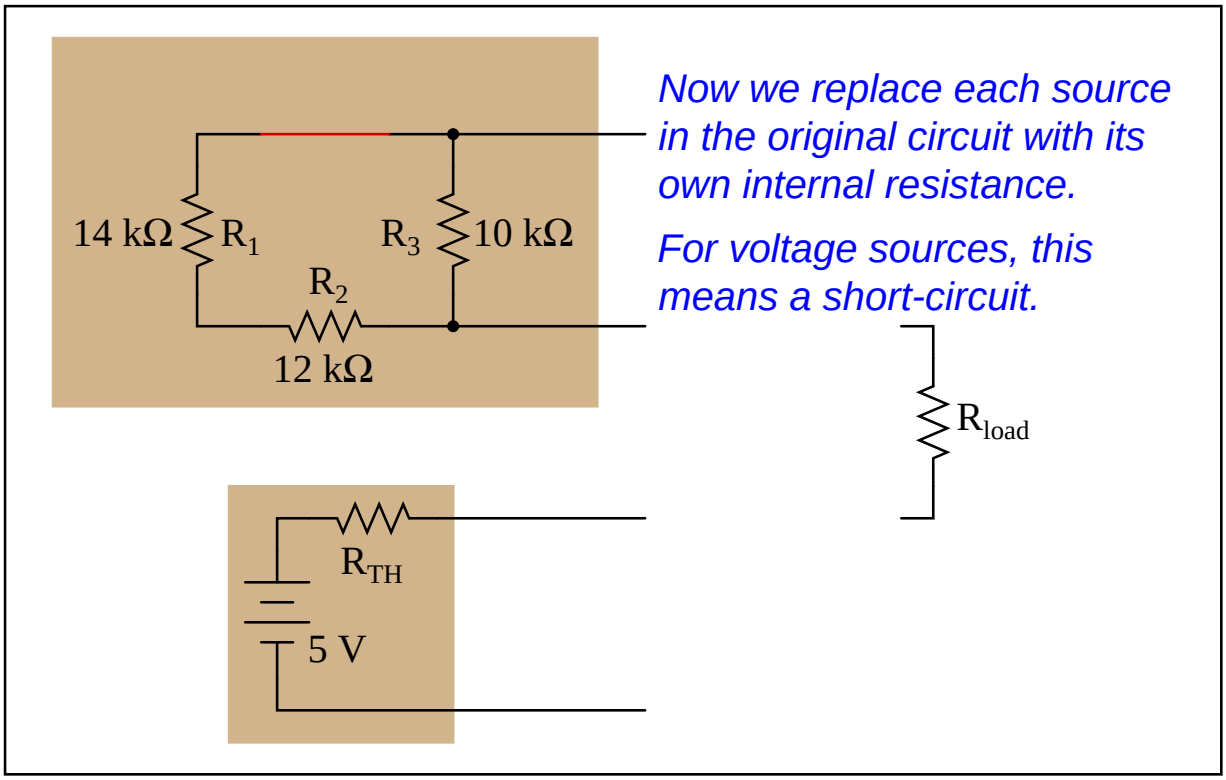


Now we replace each source in the original circuit with its own internal resistance.

For voltage sources, this means a short-circuit.



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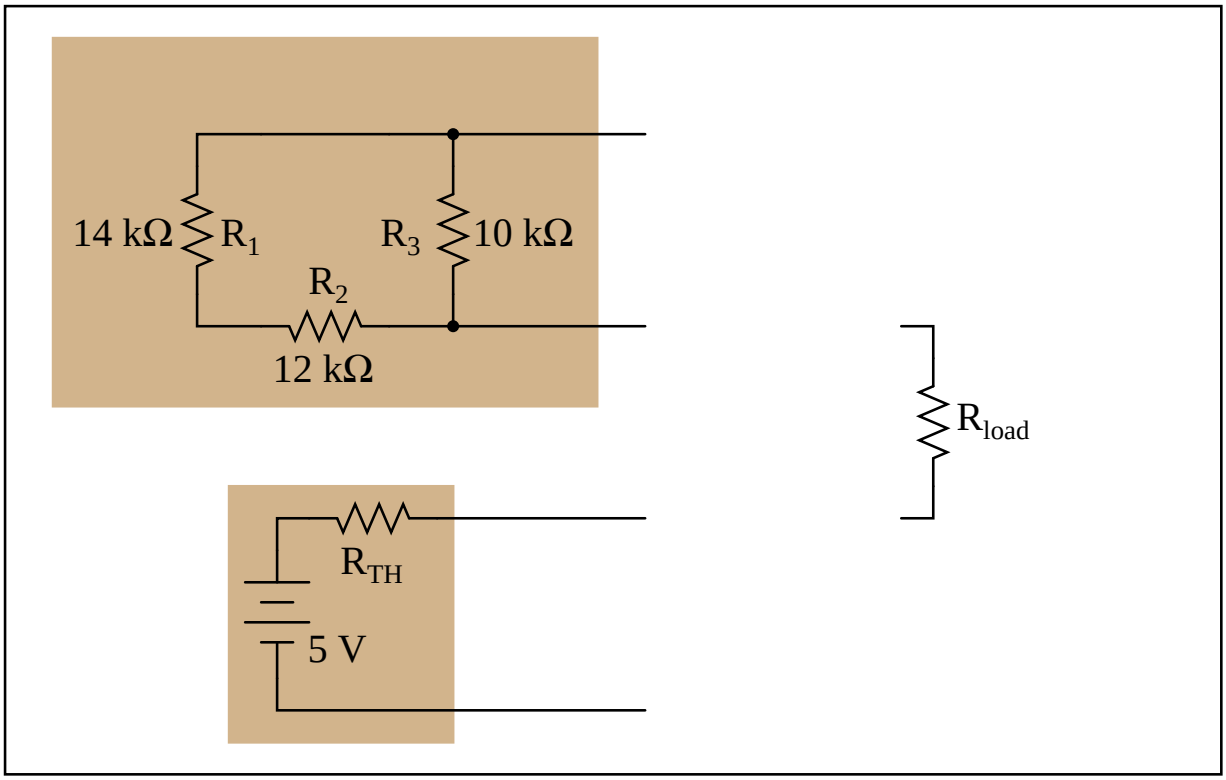
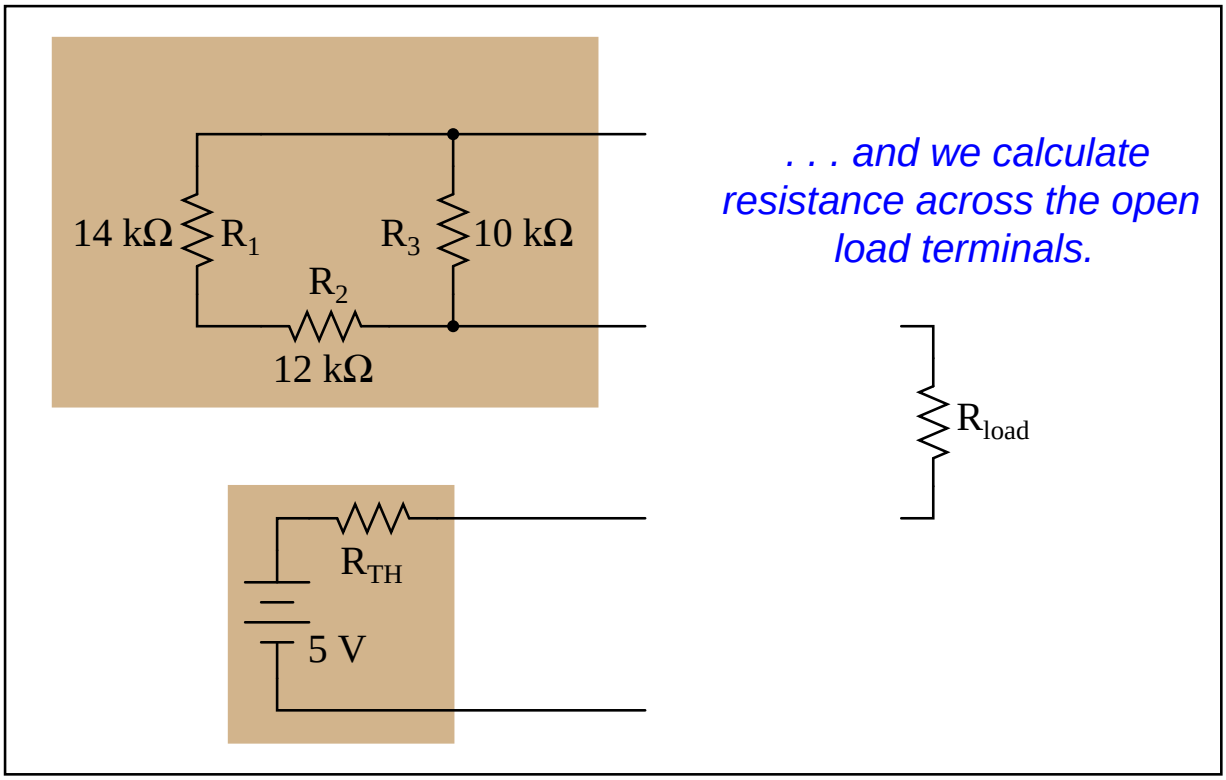
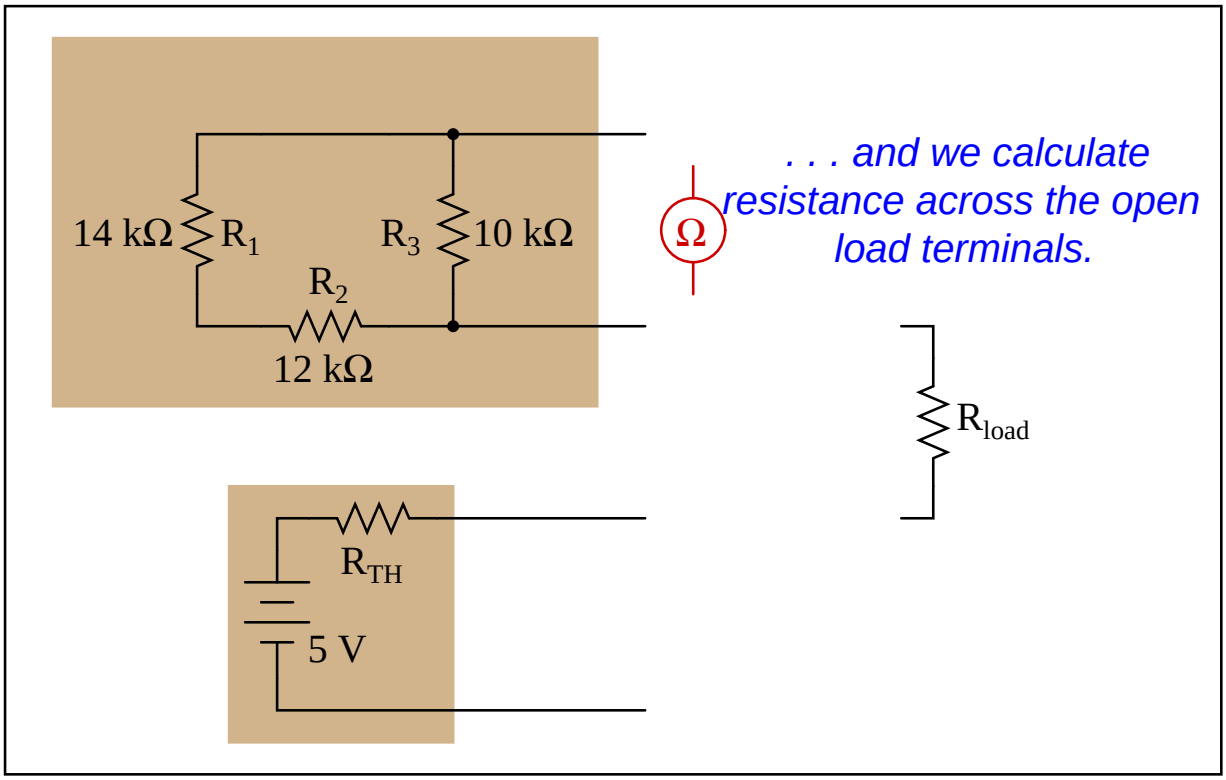
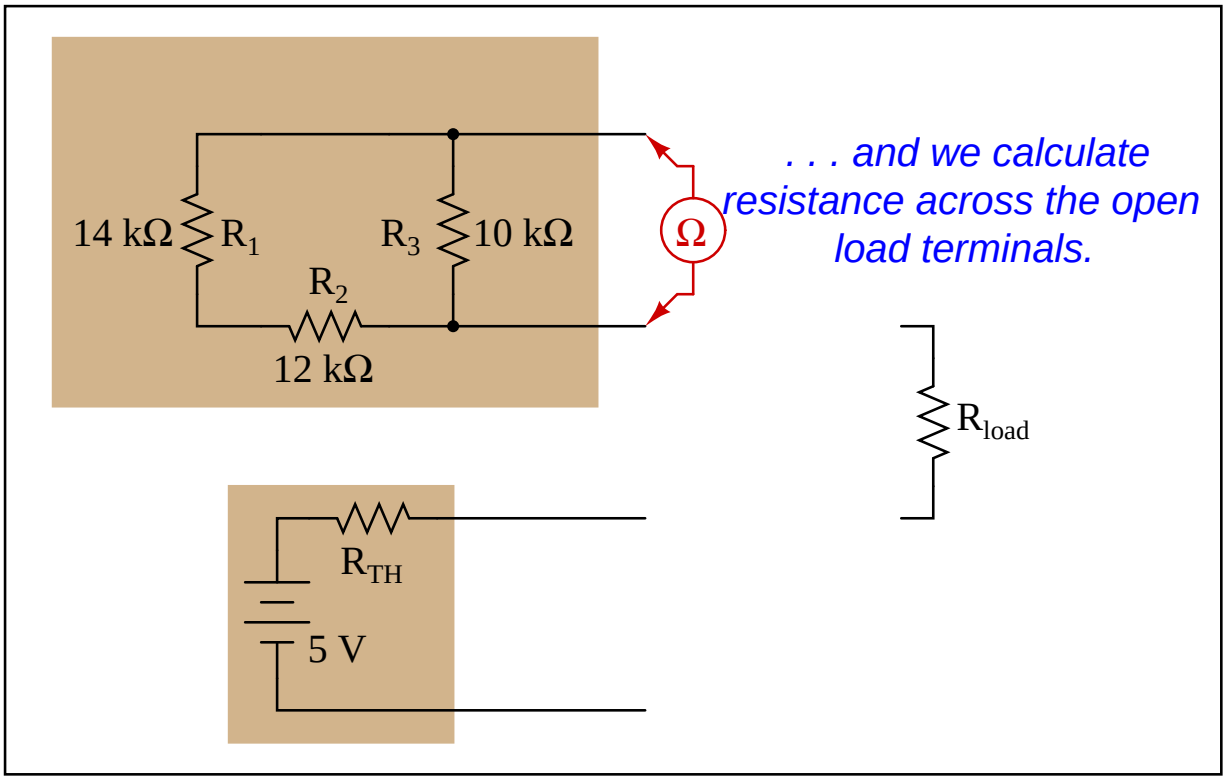
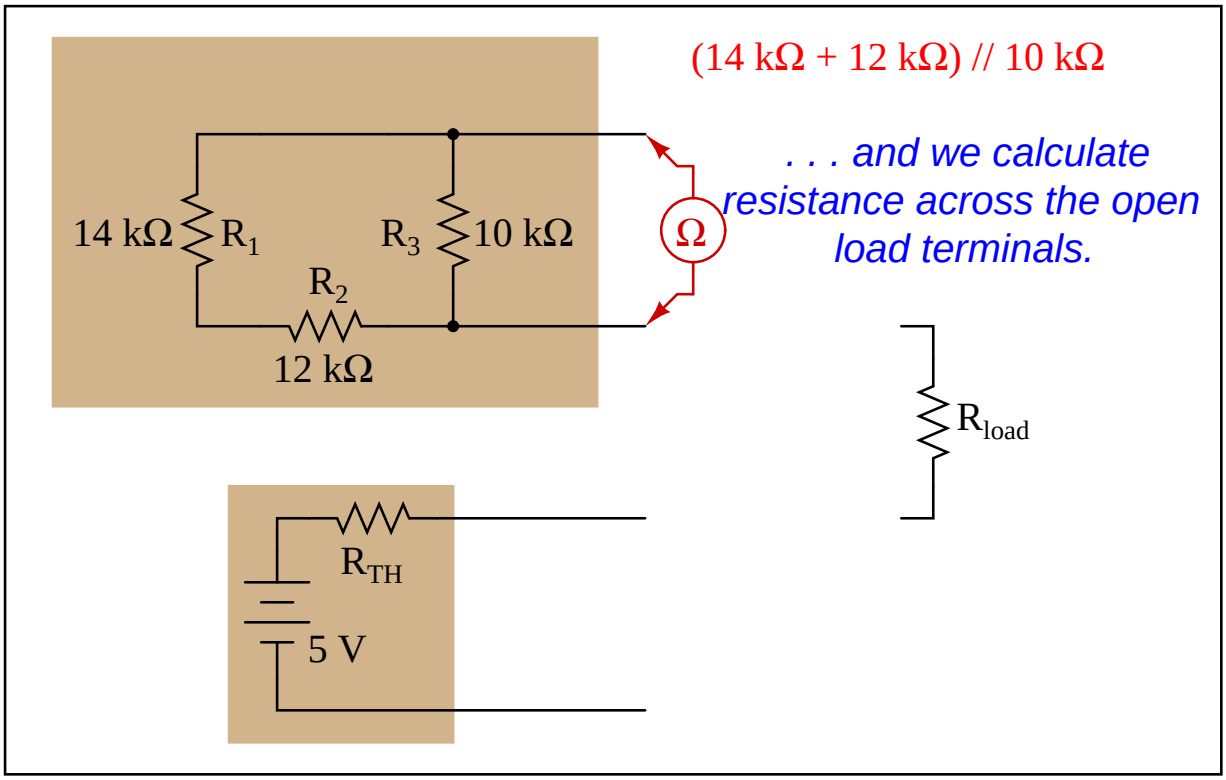
For voltage sources, this means a short-circuit.

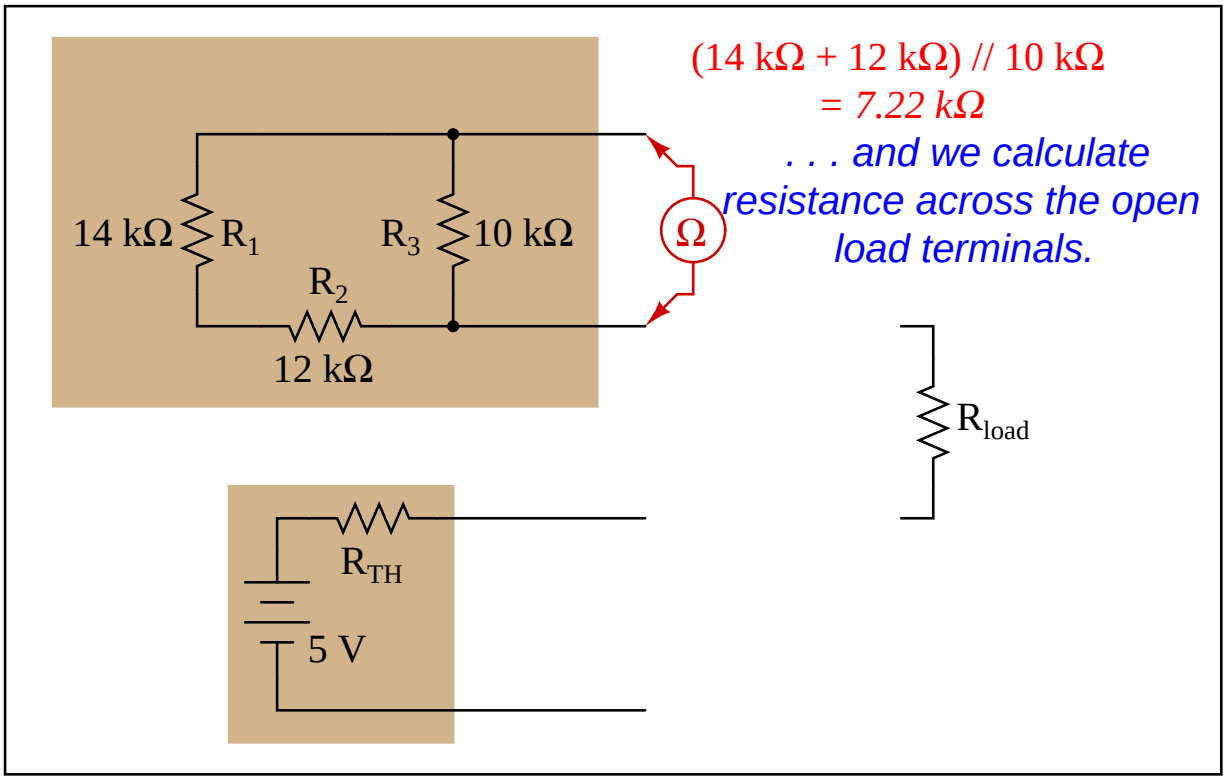

14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
Rload
RTH
5 V

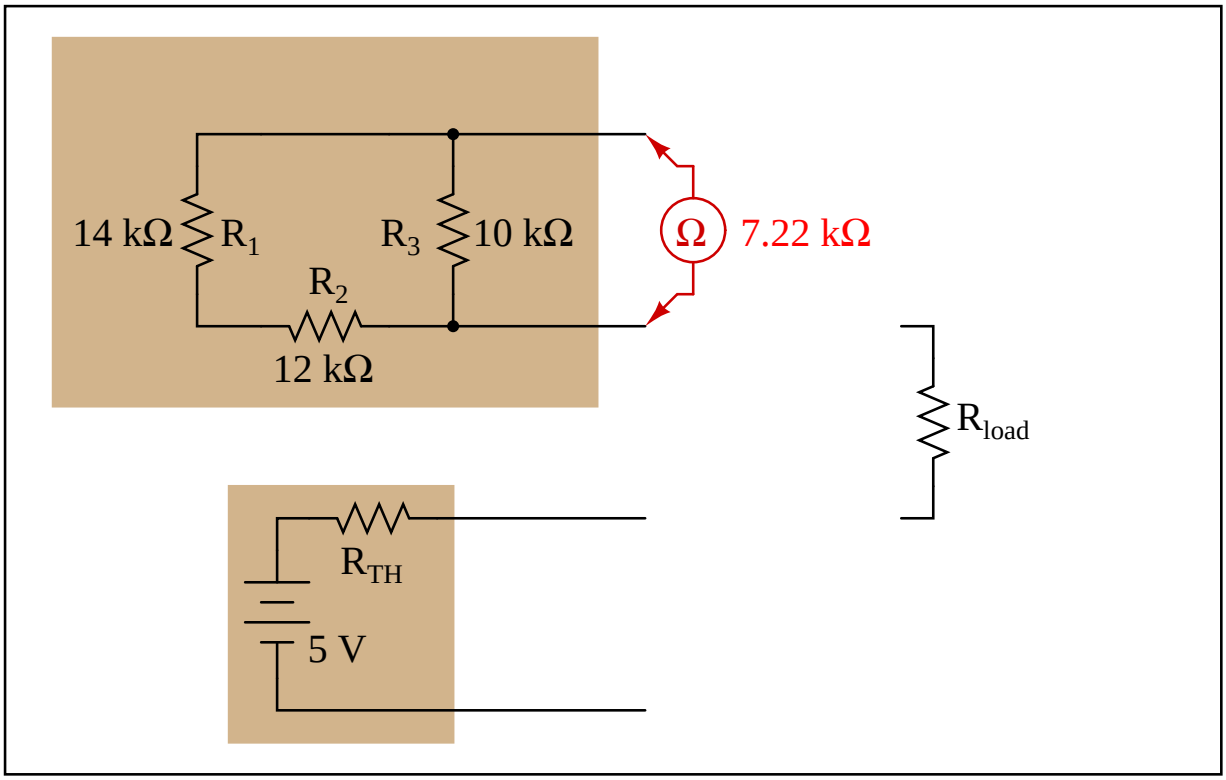

14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
RTH
5 V
. . . and we calculate resistance across the open load terminals.
Rload

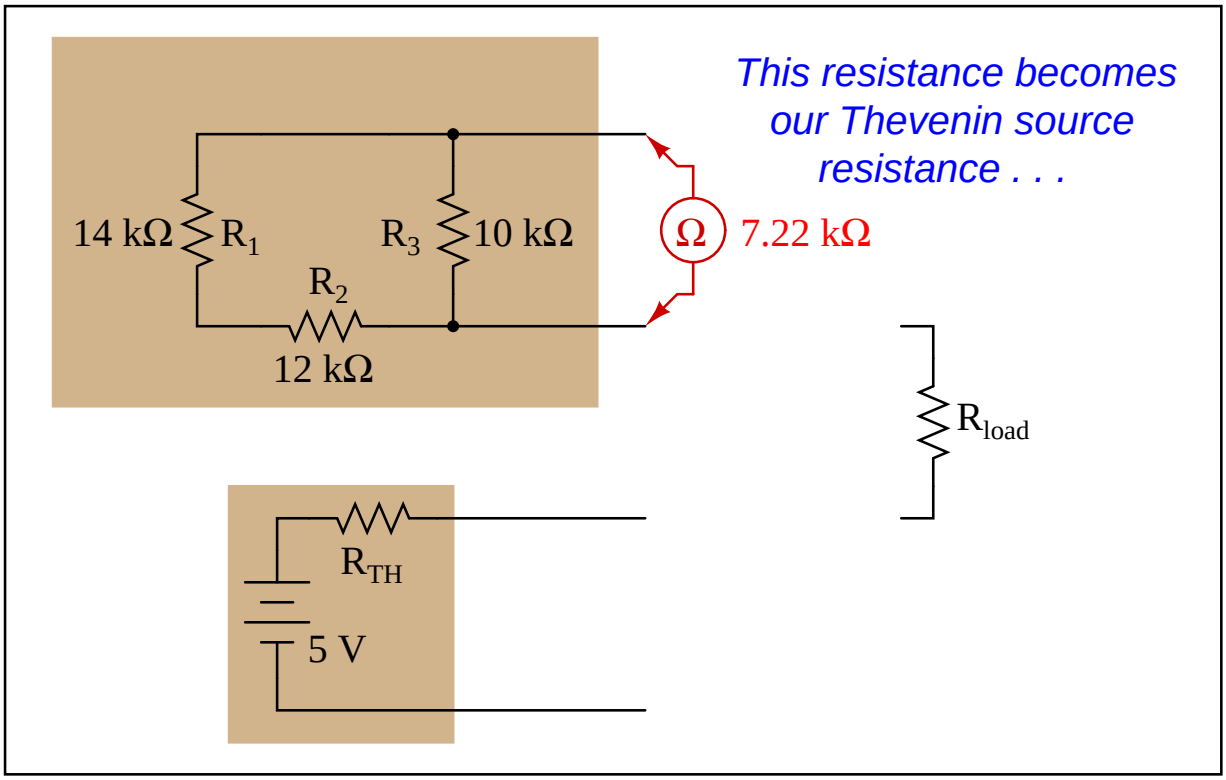

14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
Ω
. . . and we calculate resistance across the open load terminals.
Rload
RTH
5 V

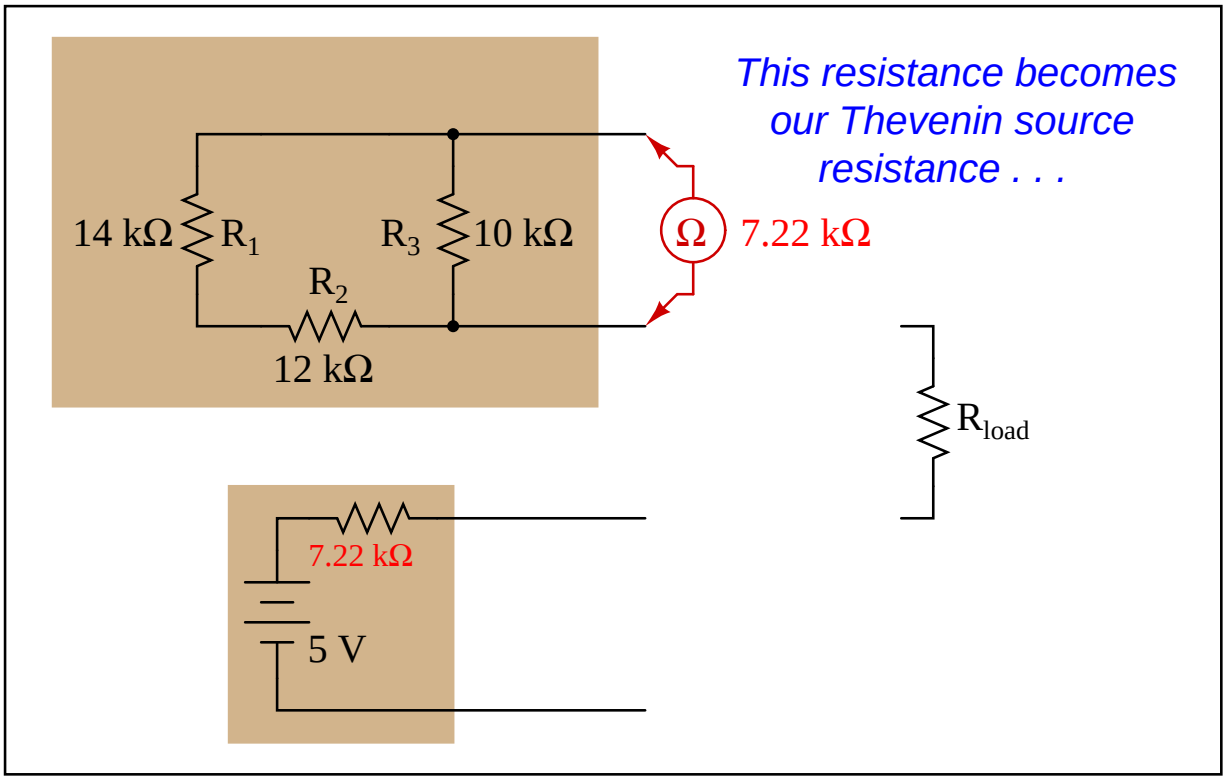

14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
Ω
. . . and we calculate resistance across the open load terminals.
Rload
RTH
5 V

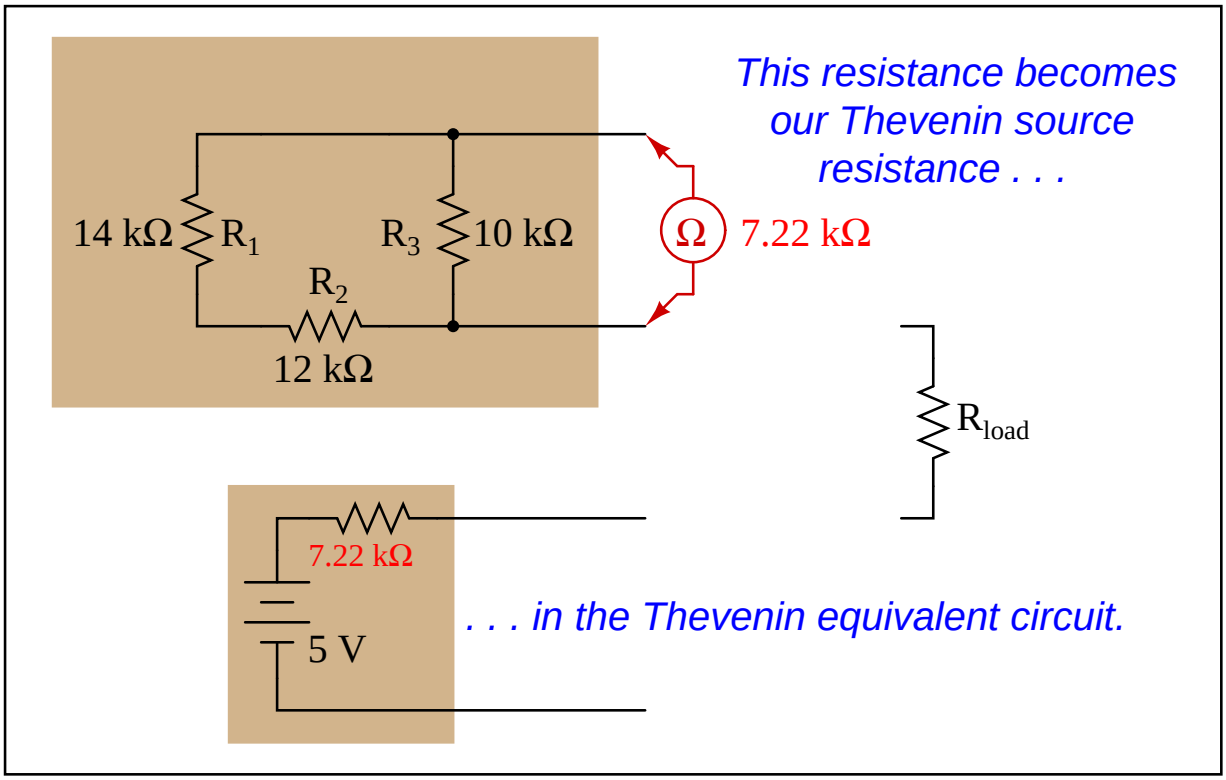

(14 kΩ + 12 kΩ) // 10 kΩ
. . . and we calculate resistance across the open load terminals.
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
Ω
Rload
RTH
5 V

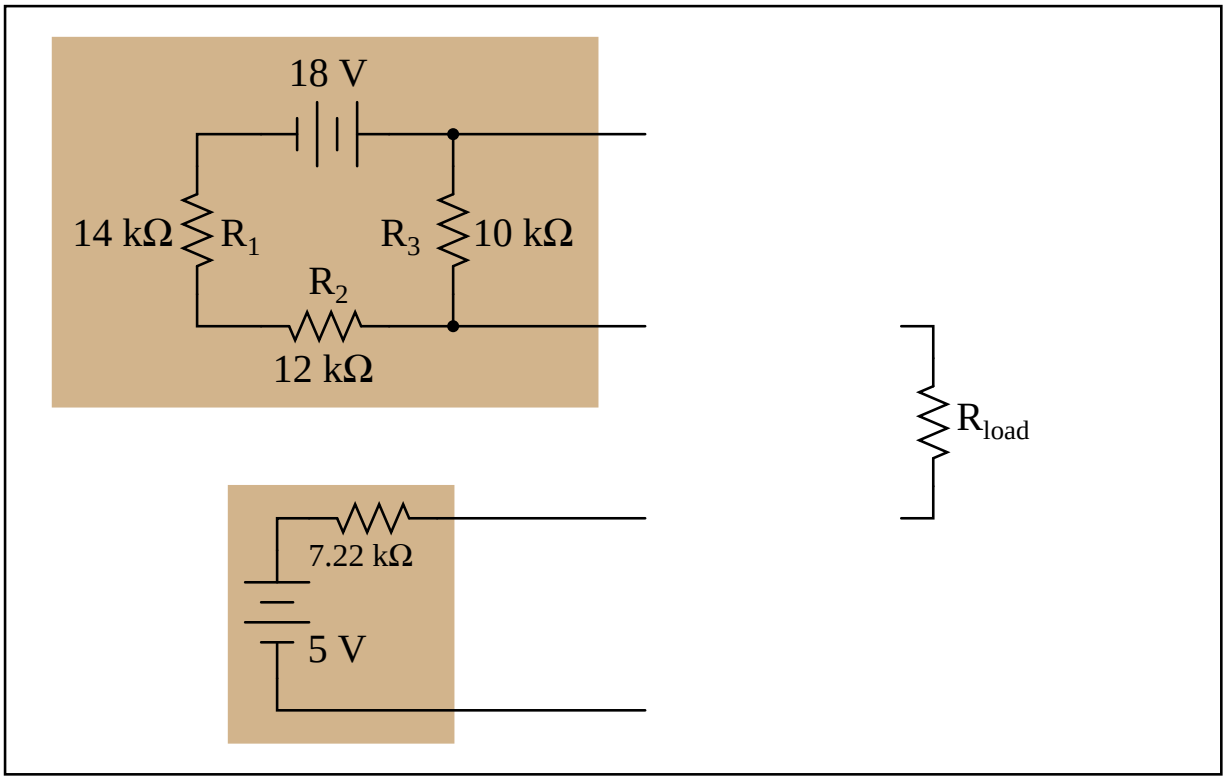

14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
Ω
(14 kΩ + 12 kΩ) // 10 kΩ
= 7.22 kΩ
. . . and we calculate resistance across the open load terminals.
Rload
RTH
5 V

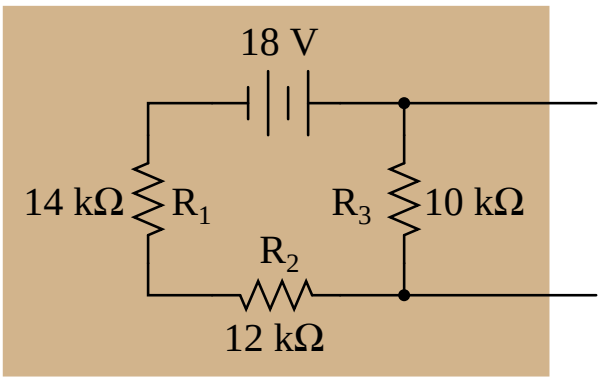

14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
Ω
7.22 kΩ
Rload
RTH
5 V

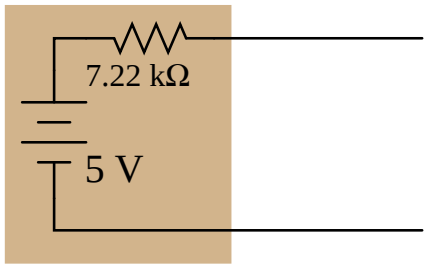

This resistance becomes our Thevenin source resistance . . .
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
Ω
7.22 kΩ
Rload
RTH
5 V


This resistance becomes our Thevenin source resistance . . .
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
Ω
7.22 kΩ
Rload
7.22 kΩ
5 V

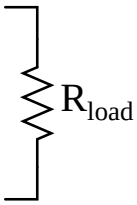

This resistance becomes our Thevenin source resistance . . .
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
Ω
7.22 kΩ
Rload
7.22 kΩ
5 V
. . . in the Thevenin equivalent circuit.

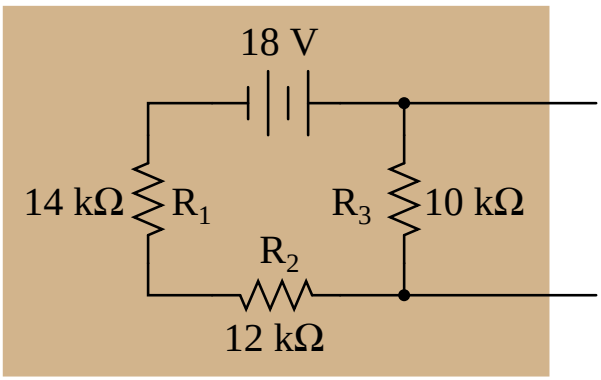

18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
Rload
7.22 kΩ
5 V

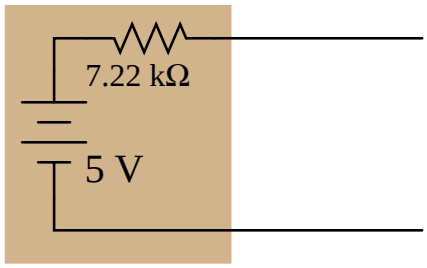




Now that we have an equivalent circuit to work with, we may insert the load there to see what happens!







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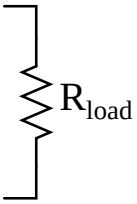

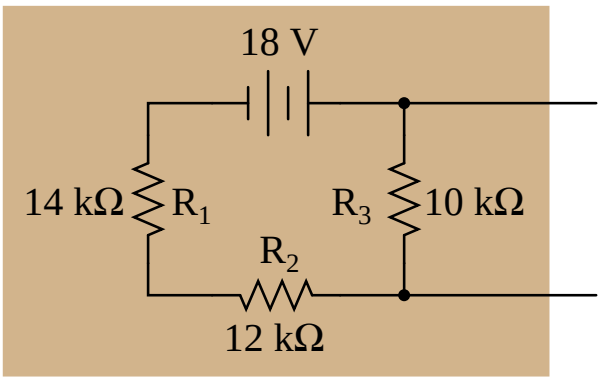

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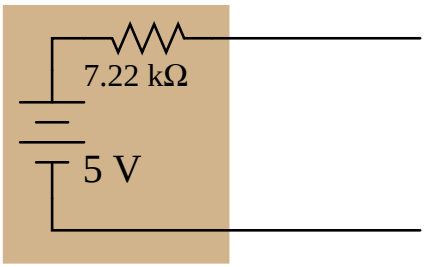

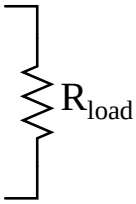

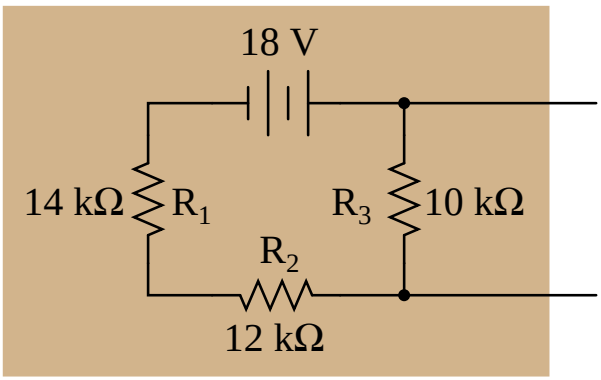

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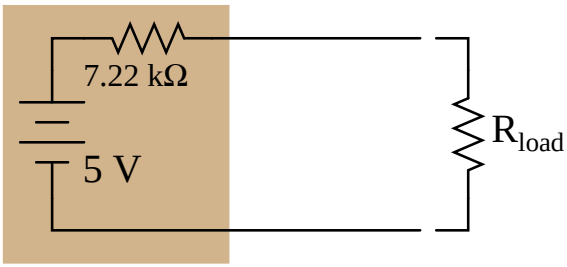

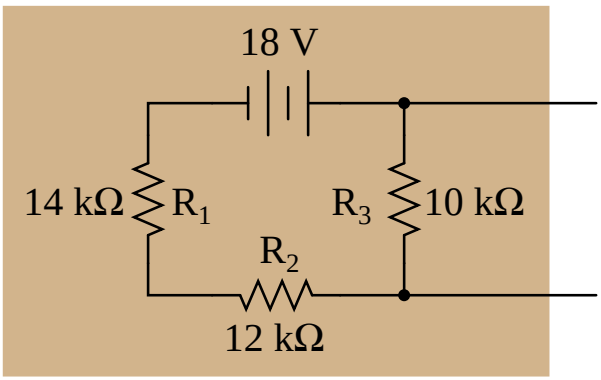

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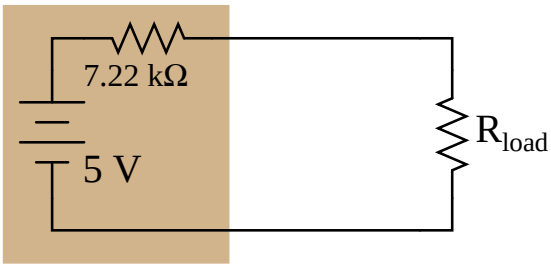
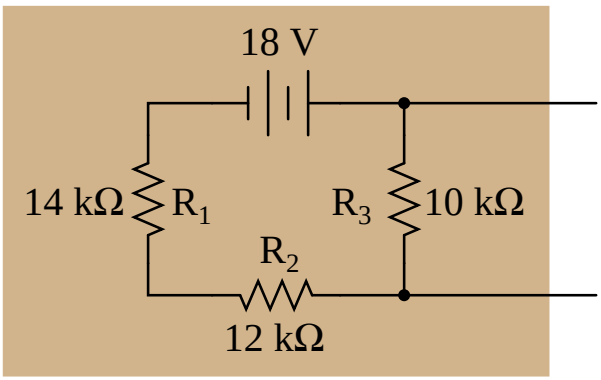
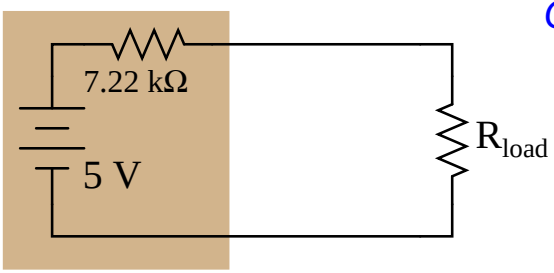
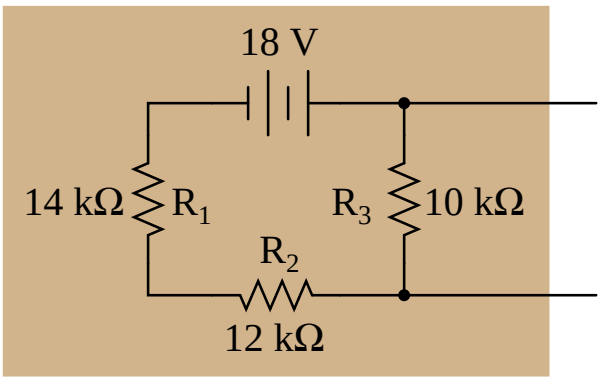




Now that we have an equivalent circuit to work with, we may insert the load there to see what happens!

Calculate:





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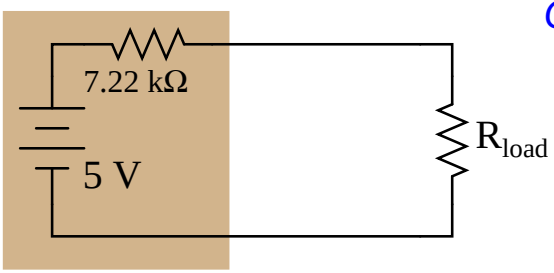
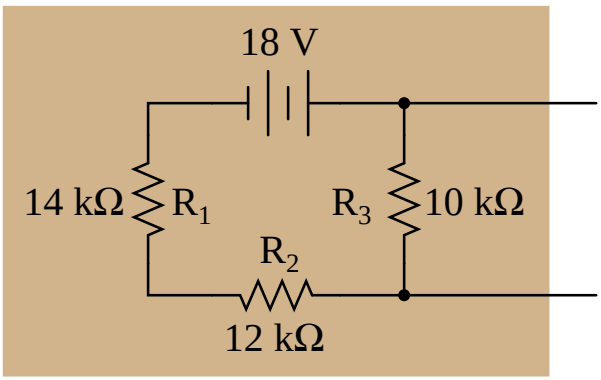


Calculate:

V_{load}



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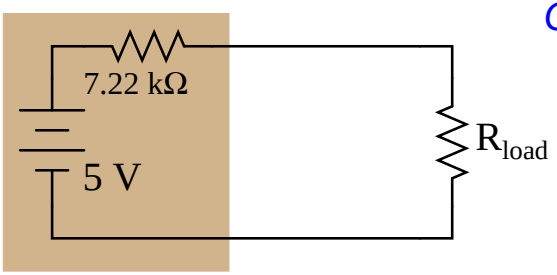
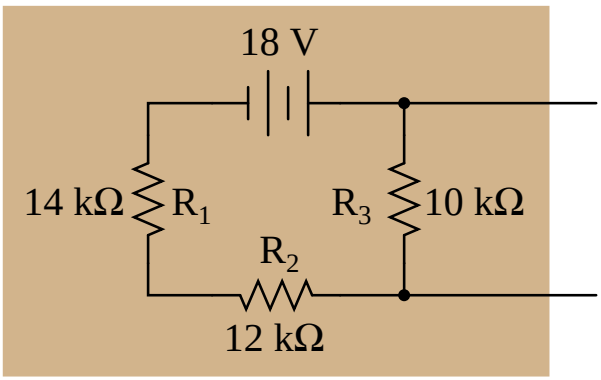


Calculate:

V_{load}

I_{load}



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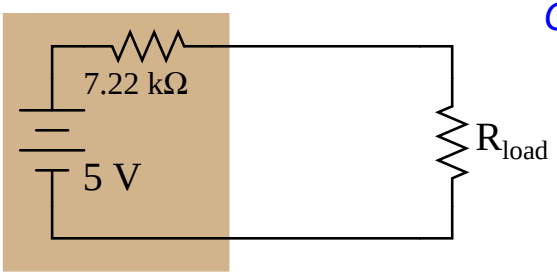
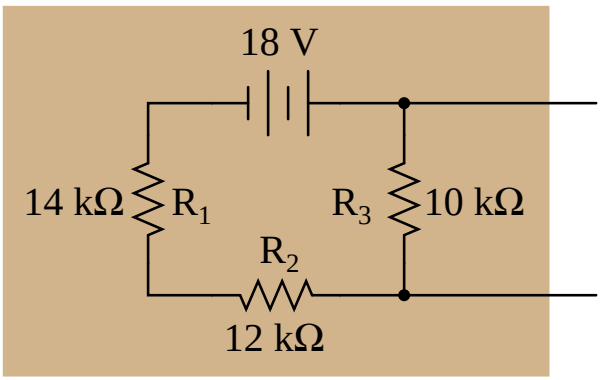


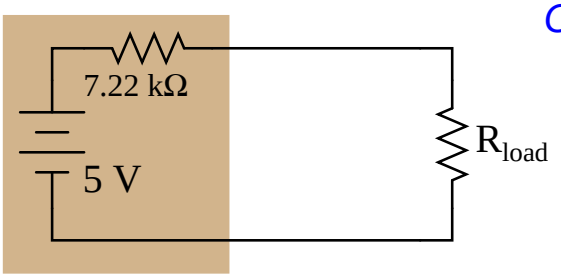
Calculate:

V_{load}

I_{load}

P_{load}



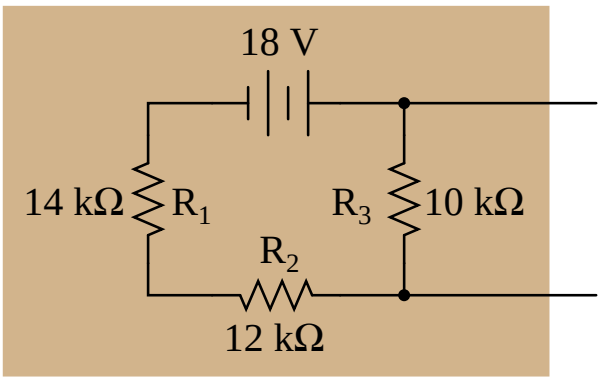


Calculate:

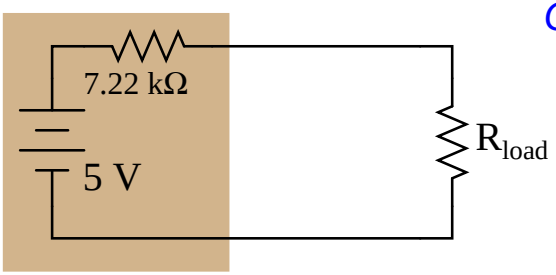
V_{load}

I_{load}

P_{load}



These load calculations will reflect what happens in the original circuit!

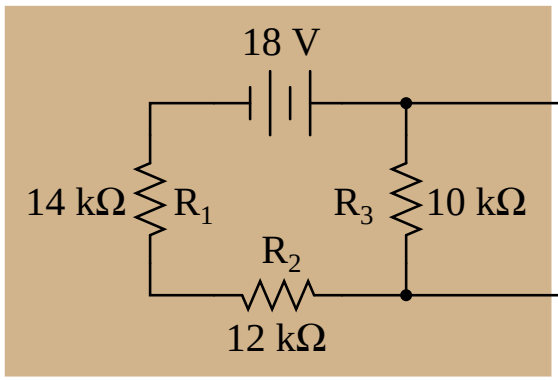


Calculate:

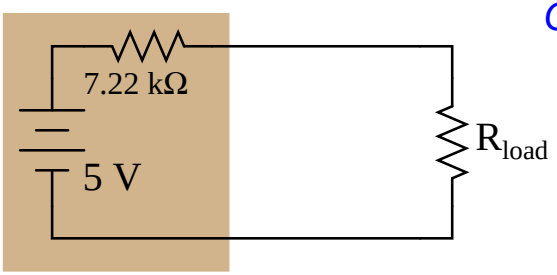
V_{load}

I_{load}

P_{load}



These load calculations will reflect what happens in the original circuit!

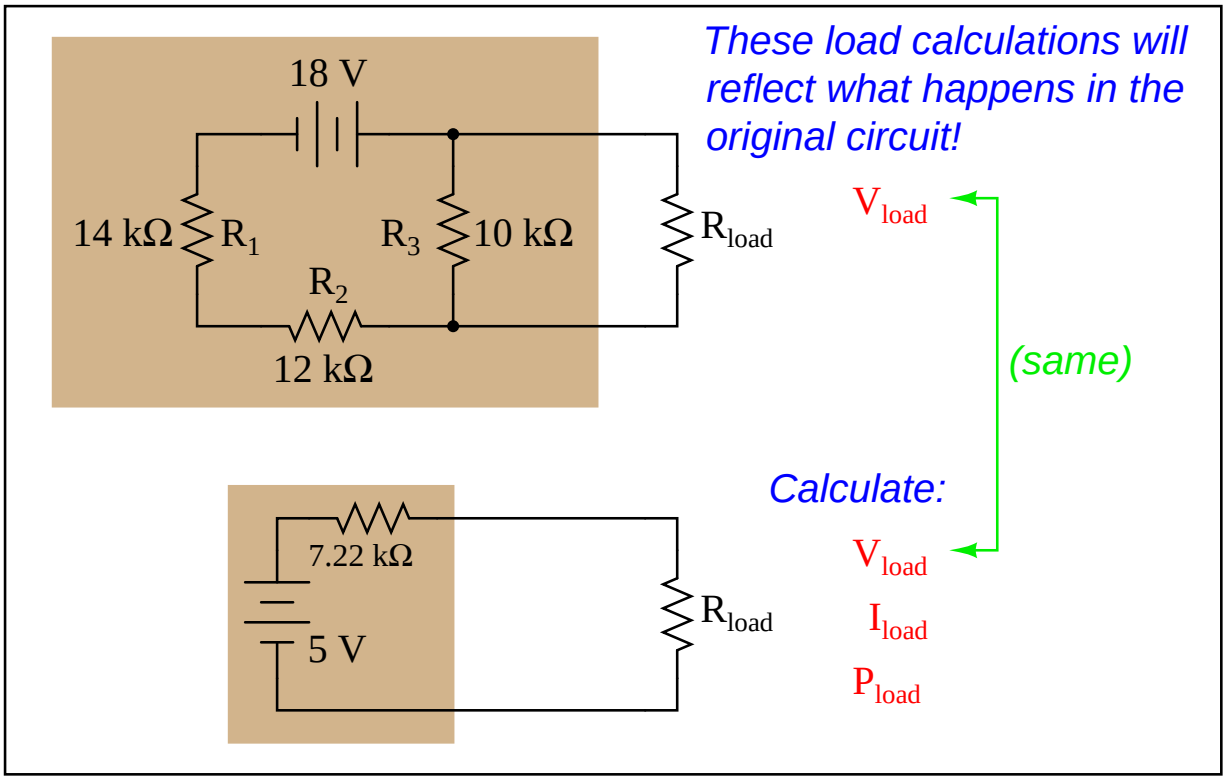


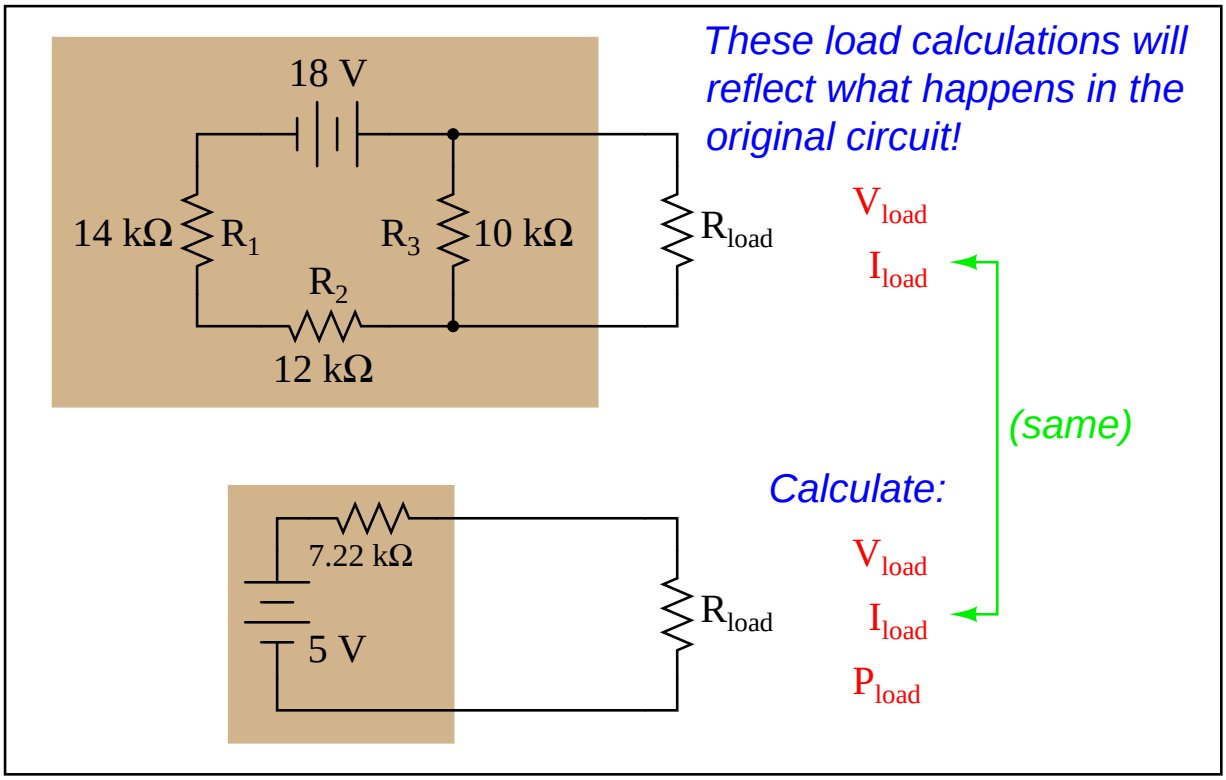
Calculate:

V_{load}

I_{load}

P_{load}


These load calculations will reflect what happens in the original circuit!
18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
Rload
Vload
(same)
Calculate:
Vload
Iload
Pload
7.22 kΩ
5 V
Rload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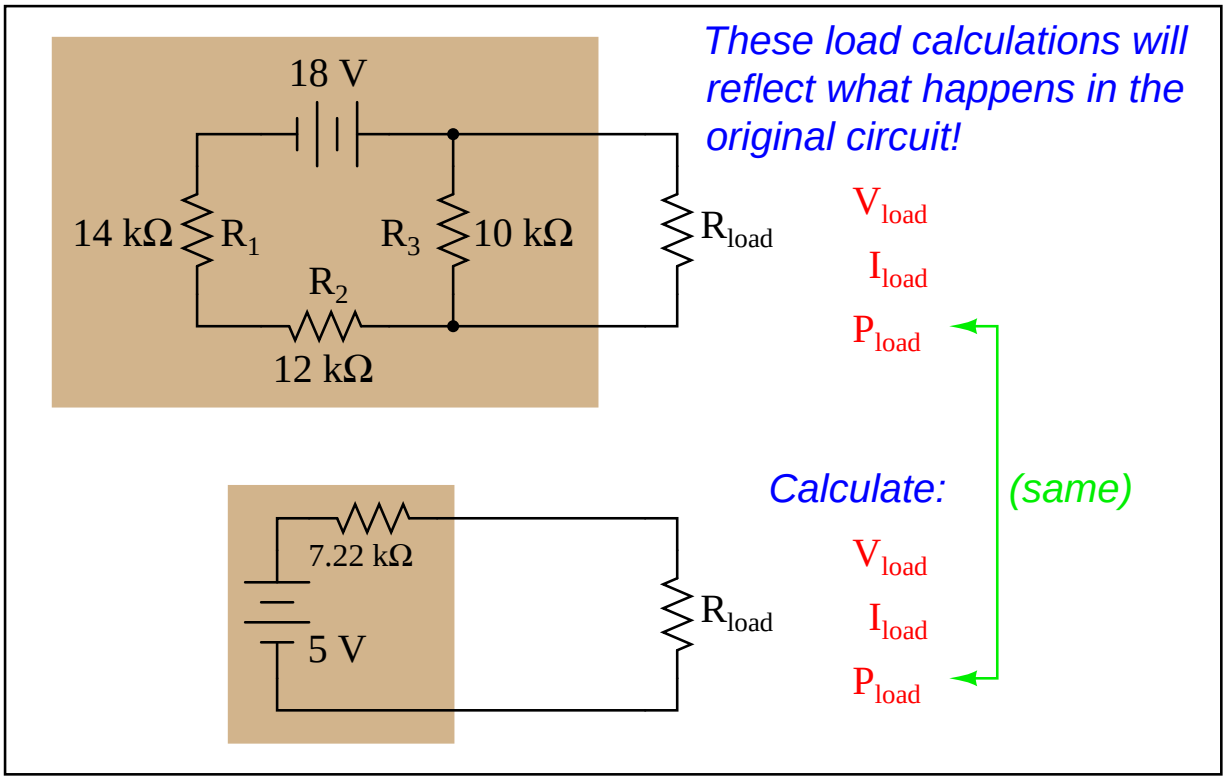
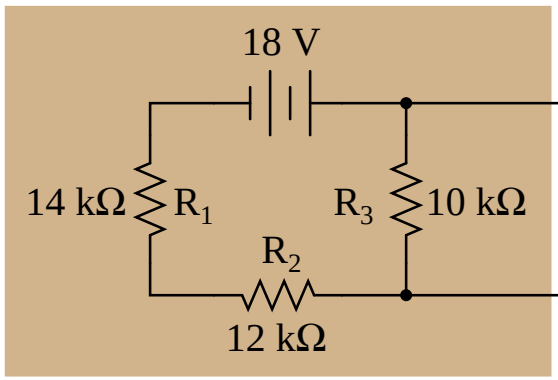
18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
Rload
Vload
Iload
(same)
Calculate:
7.22 kΩ
5 V
Rload
Vload
Iload
Pload


18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
Rload
These load calculations will reflect what happens in the original circuit!
Vload
Iload
Pload
Calculate:
(same)
7.22 kΩ
5 V
Rload
Vload
Iload
Pload

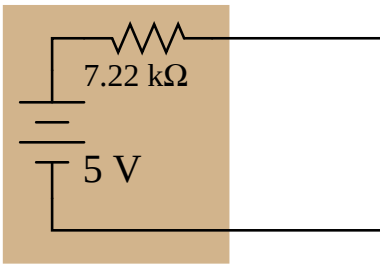


These load calculations will reflect what happens in the original circuit!

V_{load}

I_{load}

P_{load}

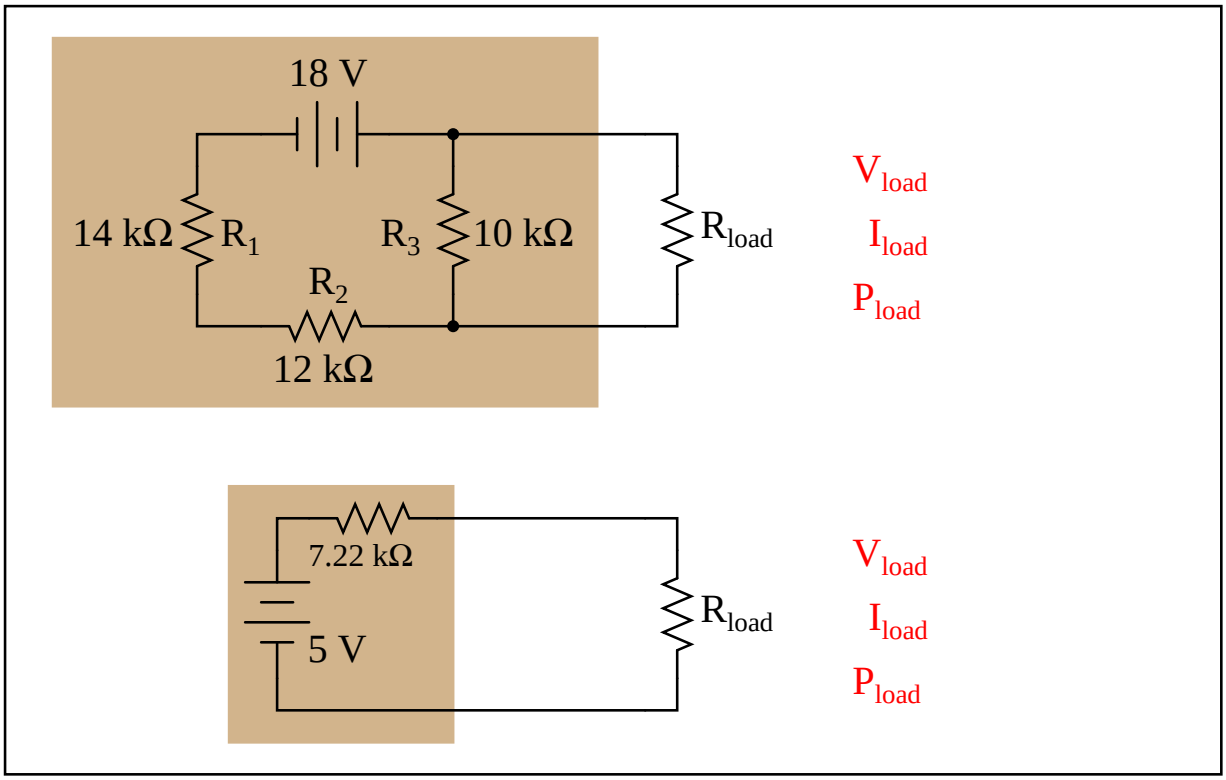


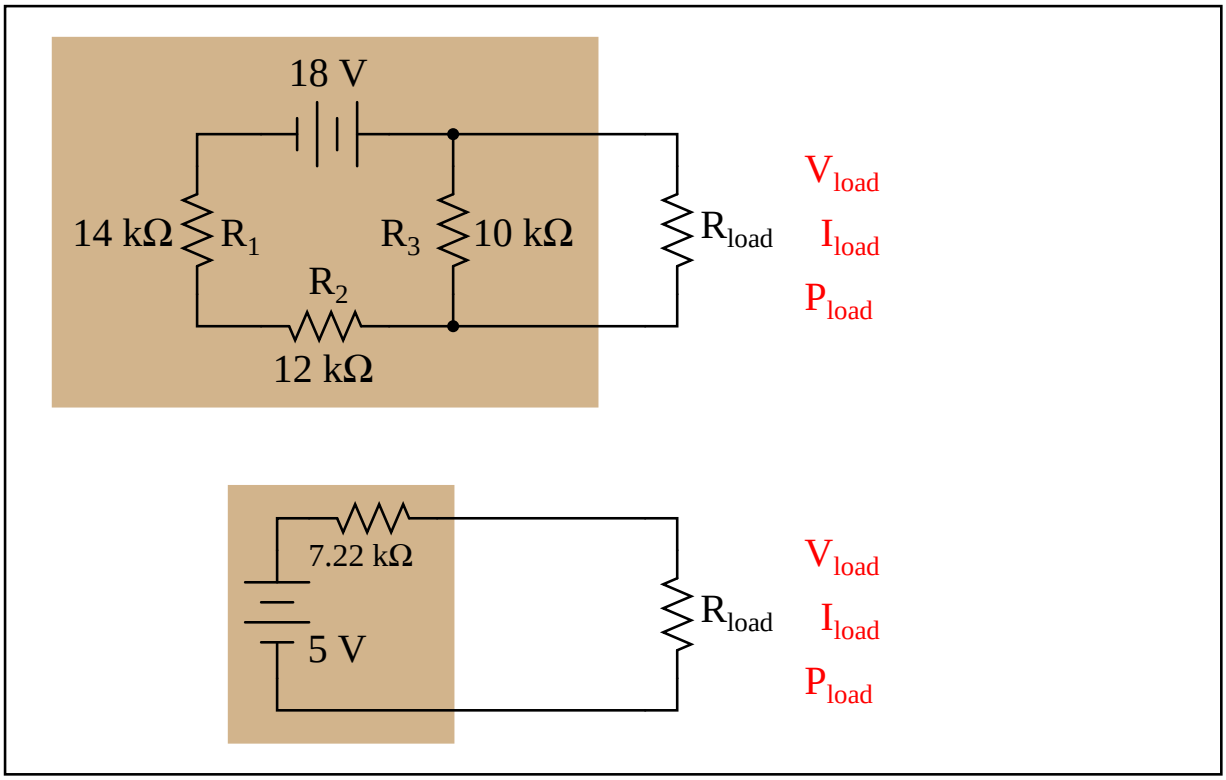
Calculate:

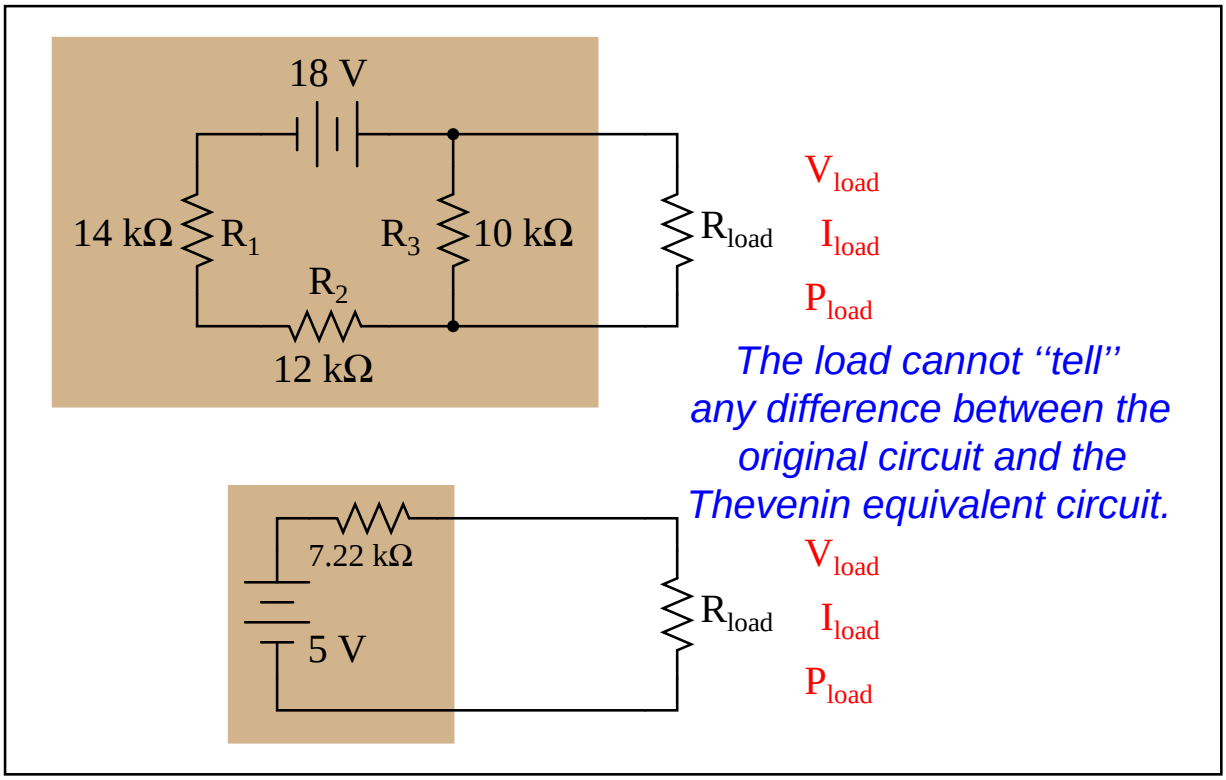
V_{load}

I_{load}

P_{load}


18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
Rload
Vload
Iload
Pload
7.22 kΩ
5 V
Rload
Vload
Iload
Pload


18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
Rload
Vload
Iload
Pload
7.22 kΩ
5 V
Rload
Vload
Iload
Pload


18 V
14 kΩ
R1
R3
10 kΩ
R2
12 kΩ
Rload
Vload
Iload
Pload
The load cannot "tell" any difference between the original circuit and the Thevenin equivalent circuit.
7.22 kΩ
5 V
Rload
Vload
Iload
Pload

file 03261

Answer 1

Nothing to note here.

Notes 1

The purpose of this animation is to let students see how Thévenin's theorem may be applied to the simplification of a resistor network.