

The Mayflower Compact

Directions: Read and annotate the document.

In the name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread sovereign Lord, King James, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, etc.,

Having undertaken, for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith and honor of our King and Country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God, and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute and frame such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the Colony: unto which we promise all due submission and obedience.

In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape Cod the 11 of November, in the year of the reign of our sovereign Lord, King James of England, France and Ireland the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth. Ano. Dom. 1620.

A compact is an agreement among men. This compact was written on the Mayflower, a ship carrying "Pilgrims" to the new world. Since the people ended up landing in Cape Cod instead of in Virginia, they felt they were not bound by the rules of the government set up by the Virginia Company back in England.

Use your annotations to answer these questions.

1. Why did the people on the Mayflower go to Virginia?
2. What did the Pilgrims agree to do in the Mayflower Compact?
3. What did the Pilgrims promise in the Mayflower Compact?