



The document: <http://www.mayflowerhistory.com/>

Great map: <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/history/us/pilgrim/mayflowerquiz.shtml>

## The Mayflower Compact, 1620

When the Pilgrims landed at Cape Cod, they had major problems. First, they were authorized to settle in Virginia, not New England. (Their ship was blown off course.) Second, the non-Pilgrims wanted to do their own thing. Third, if folks wanted to survive a bitter winter in New England, they had to stick together under a strong government. (A weak government nearly killed the little colony in Jamestown, Virginia.) Before the Pilgrims got off the Mayflower, they signed this agreement:

"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 England, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, e&. Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honour 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 Politick**, 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 hereunto subscribed our names at Cape Cod the eleventh of November, in the Reign of our Sovereign Lord, King James of England, France and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth. Anno Domini, 1620."

### The principles

#### 1. The Social Contract

The Pilgrims on the Mayflower landed at Cape Cod.

But before they got off the ship, they all signed an agreement.

The Pilgrims called it a *compact*.

The Bible called it a *covenant*.

John Locke called it a *social contract*.

The social contract is an agreement between the people and their government.

#### 2. Consent of the Governed

"We, whose names are underwritten . . ." is almost the first line. The people formed the government.

So the government's authority came from the people.

#### 3. The Rule of Law

The Pilgrims agreed to form a government and be bound by its rules.

Individually, they might not agree with all of the actions of the government . . .

But they all agreed to follow the laws passed by government.

#### 4. Majority Rule

Those who signed, agreed to abide by majority rule.

Note: The Mayflower Compact was not the first constitution in America.

Historians regard the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut as being the first constitution in America.



# The “Survivor” Compact

Lucky you. You have been chosen to be one of the cast members on the TV show, “Survivor.” Poor you. The ship is blown off course. You and sixteen survivors end up on a deserted island. This is no longer a game. There’s no staff, no host Jeff Probst, and no food, unless you find it. And forget about the million dollars. You’ll be lucky to be rescued. If you don’t have a government, you will starve to death, one by one.

## THE SURVIVOR COMPACT

Break into groups of five. Using the Mayflower Compact as your model, write “The Survivor Compact.” Create your own government and ten specific rules.

1. **Consent of the Governed** - Translate this into your own words.

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2. **The Social Contract** - Translate this into your own words.

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3. **The Rule of Law** - Translate this into your own words.

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4. **The Ten Rules** - What will help you survive?

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