

First Document of American Freedom

Written into this Compact—or constitution—are the basic ideals of democracy as we know it today. It is the first example of a system of government instituted by men of equal rights who were about to establish their community in the world.

THE MAYFLOW COMPACT

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN, WE WHOSE NAMES ARE UNDERWRITTEN, THE LOYAL SUBJECTS OF OUR GREAT SOVEREIGN LORD, KING JAMES, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, OF GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE AND ENGLAND 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 ANOTHER, COVENANT AND COMBINE OURSELVES INTO A BODY POLITIC, FOR OUR BETTER ORDERING AND PRESERVATION AND FURTHERANCE OF THE ENDS AFORESAID— AND BY THE VIRTUE HEREOF TO ENACT, CONSTITUTE AND FRAME SUCH JUST AND EQUAL LAWS, ORDINANCES, ACTS, CONSTITUTIONS AND OFFICERS FROM TIME TO TIME, AS SHALL BE THOUGHT BEST MEET AND CONVENIENT FOR THE GENERAL GOOD OF THE COLONY; UNTO WHICH WE PROMISE ALL OUR SUBMISSION AND OBEDIENCE.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, WE HAVE HERUNTO SIGNED 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 SIXTEENTH, AND OF SCOTLAND THE FIFTY-FOURTH, AND, DOM. 1620.

READ THE COMPACT CAREFULLY.

1. With a **RED MARKER** underline statements which show the Pilgrims' belief and faith in God.
2. With a **BLUE MARKER** underline statements which express their loyalty to their King and country.
3. With a **GREEN MARKER** underline statements which show their mutual regard for one another as equals.
4. With a **BLACK MARKER** underline statements which show their intent to establish just and equal laws for a democratic government.