

**Primary Source****Author Puritan Separatists Aboard the *Mayflower*****Overview**

Named for the ship that brought the Pilgrims to New England, the Mayflower Compact was an agreement among the people onboard to protect themselves by forming a government under their own laws. Forty-one men signed the compact on November 21, 1620. It was the first plan of self-government ever put into force in the English colonies.

**Guided Reading**

As you read, consider the following questions:

- Why was the agreement created?
- Why did the 41 men sign the compact?

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 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 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 do enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions, and Officers, 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.

Mr. John Carver	Mr. Samuel Fuller	Peter Brown
Mr. William Bradford	Mr. Christopher Martin	Richard Britteridge
Mr. Edward Winslow	Mr. William Mullins	George Soule
Edward Tilly	Mr. William Brewster	John Tilly
Mr. William White	Francis Cooke	Isaac Allerton
Thomas Rogers	Myles Standish	Mr. Richard Warren
Thomas Tinker	John Alden	John Ridgdale
John Turner	John Howland	Edward Fuller
Francis Eaton	Mr. Steven Hopkins	Richard Clark
James Chilton	Richard Gardiner	John Craxton
Digery Priest	Mr. John Allerton	John Billington
Thomas Williams	Thomas English	Joses Fletcher
Gilbert Winslow	Edward Doten	John Goodman
Edmund Margesson	Edward Liester	

## Primary Source

**Source:** The Federal and State Constitutions Colonial Charters, and Other Organic Laws of the States, Territories, and Colonies Now or Heretofore Forming the United States of America Compiled and Edited Under the Act of Congress of June 30, 1906 by Francis Newton Thorpe. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1909

[http://avalon.law.yale.edu/17th\\_century/mayflower.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/17th_century/mayflower.asp)