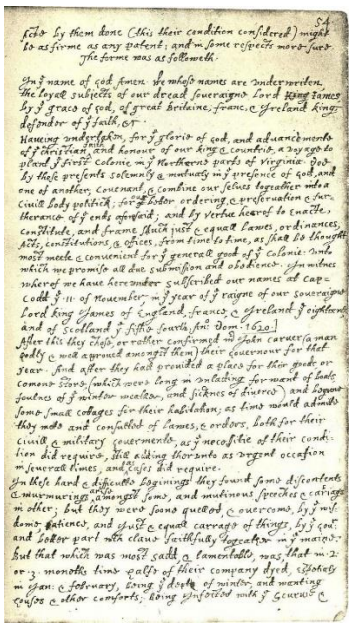
U.S. Government

The Mayflower Compact

Name:
Section:
Score: _____/5

Directions: The Mayflower compact is one of the first forms of government established by the European settlers to North America. Written in 1620 by the settlers of Plymouth in Massachusetts, the compact lays one of the formations for the eventual US Constitution. Read the compact below and answer the questions. Be ready to discuss.

As Originally Written: *"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."*



1. Read over the compact and come up with your own translation of what the document is saying:

2. What is the purpose of the compact and what types of things do they establish with this document?

3. What principles of the American Government do you recognize here? Cite where you see these principles within the document.