## The Mayflower Compact

The Mayflower Compact was signed on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1620 by 41 men aboard the *Mayflower*, the ship that had brought the Pilgrims to America.

The ship had sailed from England with Virginia as its destination, but weather conditions forced the ship to land farther north, in what is now Provincetown Harbor, near Cape Cod. Because of this, and because they were no longer governed by the <u>contract</u> they had signed with the colony's <u>investors</u>, some aboard said that they wanted to leave the group. Hearing such "<u>mutinous</u> speeches," as he called them, William Brewster organized the <u>drafting</u> of a document to describe a sort of self-government, under which the settlers would agree to live and work together for <u>mutual survival</u>.

The result was a framework for self-government, in which the settlers agreed to form a "body politic" that would name leaders by majority vote, in the same way that they had done in their church <u>congregations</u> in England and Holland.

The document itself was <u>approved</u> by a majority of the men aboard the ship, and 41 male passengers (including longtime Plymouth Colony <u>Governor</u> William Bradford) signed their names. (More than 100 people were aboard the Mayflower, but not all were men or Pilgrims. Non-Pilgrims were referred to as "strangers.")

Based on: http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/ushistory/mayflowercompact.htm

## Words:

TT OI GIS			
contract (n.)	Vertrag	mutual survival (n.)	gemeinsames
			Überleben
investor (n.)	Geldgeber	congregation (n.)	Gemeinde
mutinous (adj.)	meuterisch	approve (v.)	zustimmen, bewilligen
draft (v.)	entwerfen	governor (n.)	Gouverneur (Chef der
			Regierung einer
			Kolonie)

**Task:** Please explain what makes the Mayflower Compact an important historical document in US-American history.

In I name of god Amen. he mhold names are underwriten the loyal subjects of our dread Soveraigno Lord Hing Tames by I grace of god, of great Britaine, franc, c Greland king defonder of Jaith, et Haucing underfactor, for I glorid of god, and advancements of thristian and honour of our king countries a veyage to pland I first Colonie my Northerns parts of virginia. Dos by these presents solemney a mutually my presence of god, and one of another, coments, combine our selves togenation of two therance of Jends aforgaid; and by vertue hear of to enacte, constitution of frame shuth just a equal lames or dinances, Acts, constitutions, a offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meete a convenient for I general good of I colonie: Into mich me promise all due submission and obsidence if miches where of me have here under subscribed our names at Cape Codd J. 11 of November my year of I raigne of our soveraigns lord king James of England, france a Greland I eighteens and of scotland I fishe fourth Ani Dom. 1620

Source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mayflowercomp.jpg