

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT
Lesson Title -The Mayflower Compact
Betsy Kowal

Grade – 12

Length of class period – 43 minutes

Inquiry – (What essential question are students answering, what problem are they solving, or what decision are they making?)

How was the Mayflower Compact significant to American political development?

Objectives (What content and skills do you expect students to learn from this lesson?)

1. Analyze the Mayflower Compact to determine intent of self-government
2. Summarize the main concepts contained in the document
3. Compare concepts to the 4 characteristics of state (territory, population, government, sovereignty) and the powers of government (legislative, executive, judicial)
4. Evaluate role of Mayflower Compact in development of America's political history

Materials (What primary sources or local resources are the basis for this lesson?) – (please attach)

Mayflower Compact 1620
SOAPS document analysis sheet

Activities (What will you and your students do during the lesson to promote learning?)

1. Ask students to brainstorm what they know about the Pilgrims and the circumstances of their arrival in the New World. Teacher should clear up any misconceptions.
2. Give each student a copy of the handwritten/transcribed Mayflower Compact and have them decode the document. If students are frustrated by the language, offer the modernized version of the text.
3. Once students have read through the document, hand out the SOAPS format to guide analysis of the document. Discuss as a class for key concepts and ideas.
4. Students will discuss the document to determine if the Pilgrims in Plimoth met the requirements of State (territory, population, sovereignty, and government). It is not unusual for there to be a lack of consensus on several of the requirements.
5. Challenge students to discern where the powers of government are embedded in the document.
6. Students will write an essay evaluating the significance of the Mayflower Compact to American political development

How will you assess what student learned during this lesson?

Students will write in response to the following prompt: The Mayflower Compact was the first document guaranteeing self-government ever signed In America, and its very principles are very important to American political development. In a well developed response, defend or refute this statement.

Connecticut Framework Performance Standards –

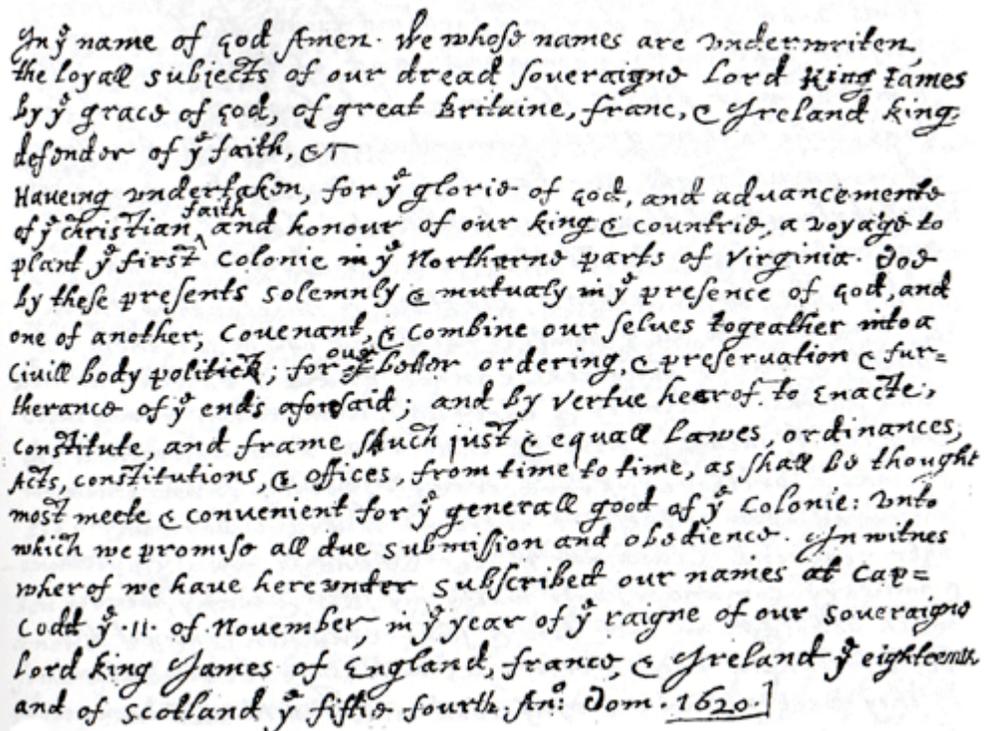
1.1 Demonstrate an understanding of significant events and themes in United States history

1.7 Explain the purpose, structures and functions of government and law at the local, state, national, and international levels

ATTACHMENTS:

The Mayflower Compact

Written by *Mayflower* passenger William Bradford into his manuscript *History of Plymouth Plantation* about 1630.

A photograph of a handwritten manuscript of the Mayflower Compact. The text is written in a cursive script on aged paper. The document begins with a religious invocation and describes the purpose of the voyage to the New World. It then details the mutual agreement between the passengers to form a civil body politic and to create laws for their colony. The document concludes with the date and location of the signing: November 11, 1620, at the Plymouth Plantation.

In y^e name of god Amen. We whose names are vnderwritten, the loyall subjects of our dread soueraigne Lord King James by y^e grace of god, of great Britaine, franc, & Ireland king, defender of y^e faith, &c
Having undertaken, for y^e glorio of god, and aduancements of y^e christian^{faith}, and honour of our king & countrey, a voyage to plant y^e first Colonie in y^e Northward parts of Virginia. Do by these presents solemnly & mutually in y^e presence of god, and one of another, Couenant, & Combine our selues together into a Ciuill body politic; for our better ordering, & preservation & furtherance of y^e ends aforesaid; and by vertue hereof, to enacte, constitute, and frame such just & equall Lawes, ordinances, Acts, constitutions, & offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meete & conuenient for y^e generall good of y^e Colonie: vnto which we promise all due submission and obedienc. In witness whereof we haue herevnder subscribed our names at Cap=
Codd y^e 11. of Nouember, in y^e year of y^e raigne of our soueraigne lord king James of England, franc, & Ireland y^e eighteenth, and of scotland y^e fifth. fourth. An^o. Dom. 1620.]

Typed transcription of the Mayflower Compact.

In y^e name of God Amen· We whose names are vnderwritten, the loyall subjects of our dread soueraigne Lord King James by y^e grace of God, of great Britaine, franc, & Ireland king, defender of y^e faith, &c

Haueing vnderaken, for y^e glorie of God, and aduancemente
of y^e christian ^{^faith} and honour of our king & countrie, a voyage to
plant y^e first colonie in y^e Northerne parts of Virginia doe
by these presents solemnly & mutually in y^e presence of God, and
one of another, couenant, & combine our selues together into a
ciuill body politick; for y^e our better ordering, & preseruacion & fur=
therance of y^e ends aforesaid; and by vertue hereof, to enacte,
constitute, and frame such just & equall lawes, ordinances,
Acts, constitutions, & offices, from time to time, as shall be thought
most meete & conuenient for y^e generall good of y^e colonie: vnto
which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness
whereof we haue herevnder subscribed our names at Cap=
Codd y^e ·11· of Nouember, in y^e year of y^e raigne of our soueraigne
Lord king James of England, France, & Ireland y^e eighteenth
and of Scotland y^e fiftie fourth. An^o: Dom ·1620·|

Typed transcription, spelling and language modernized.

"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."

SOAPS Document Analysis Form

SUBJECT: What is the document about?

OCCASION: What occasion was it created for? When/for what/as a result of...?

AUDIENCE: Who is the intended audience?

PURPOSE: Why was the document produced?

SPEAKER: Who is the speaker and what is his/her/their importance?