

# A SEPARATE GOVERNMENT

When the Pilgrims traveled to the New World, they wanted to be free of the laws of England. However, other colonies had failed due to a lack of organized government and the Pilgrims knew to be prepared to avoid this fate for themselves. They set up an agreement called the Mayflower Compact. This document was signed by every adult male on the ship, by which they agreed to act as a civil body together. Below is the text of the Mayflower 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 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."

Directions: After reading the Mayflower Compact above, answer the following questions.

- 1. What actions did the men who signed the Mayflower Compact intent to carry out according to this agreement?
- 2. Why do you think the king's name is included in this compact since the Pilgrims' purpose was to get away from England and its laws?
- 3. How does this agreement between men compare to the Pilgrims' ideas about covenants with God? Research this question using the Internet if necessary.
- 4. Only men signed the compact. What details about the story, *Bound For Plymouth*, are consistent with this fact?

# WHAT IS A PILGRIM?

**Bound For Plymouth** is a story about people traveling to search for a better life. The Pilgrims were coming to the New World to find freedom and a place to make a living.

**Directions:** What is a "pilgrim?" If a pilgrim is defined as a "seeker," could the following people be considered Pilgrims? Explain why or why not.

- a gold miner?
- an astronaut?
- a research scientist?

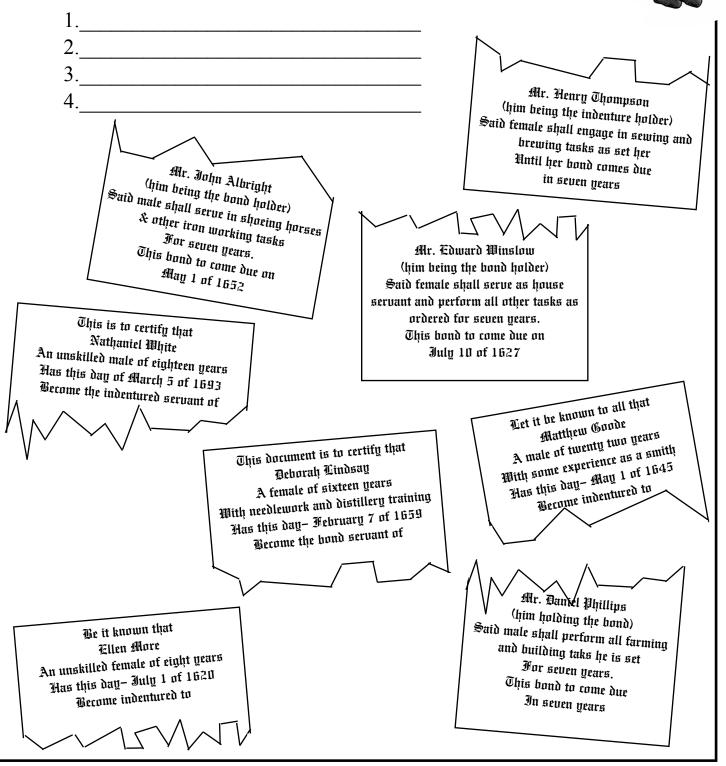
How could other groups of people be considered pilgrims? Write your answers to the questions above on the lines provided, and discuss your responses as a class.



## **INDENTURED SERVANTS**

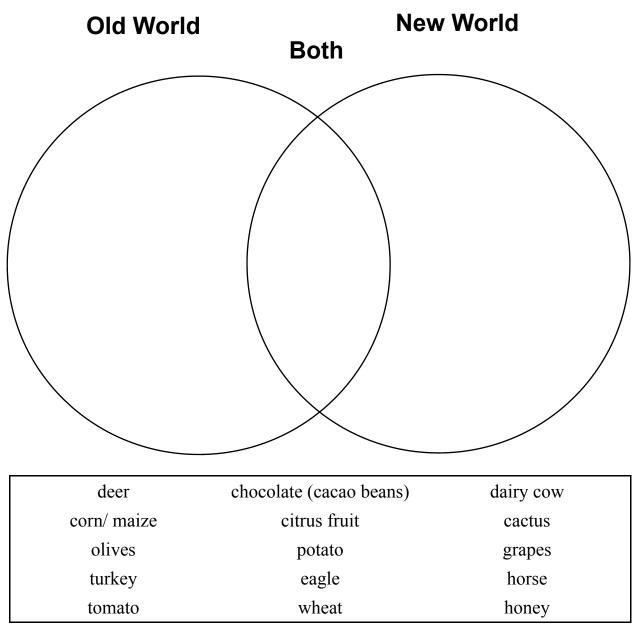
When indentured servants made a bond with their masters for seven years of servitude, the document was torn in half, leaving the edges jagged like teeth. (The word "indentured" comes from "dent" meaning teeth.) The master kept one half and the servant kept the other. At the end of the contract they fitted the torn halves together to be sure the right person was being freed.

**Directions:** Using information you have learned about indentured servants and other clues, fit the torn halves of these indenture documents together. Write the names of the indentured person and the bond holder together on the lines below.

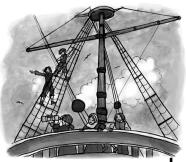


When the English colonists arrived in the New World, they found many plants and animals with which they were unfamiliar.

**Directions:** Using the Venn Diagram and the plants and animals in the word bank, place them under Old World, New World, or Both to indicate where they were originally found. At home or at your school's library, use the Internet to research the items in the word bank and find out where they belong.



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### MAYFLOWER VOCABULARY



**Directions:** Match the words from the box below with the definitions, writing the correct letter on the lines provided.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ system of ropes/ lines used for sails on ships
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_ rising and falling alternately at the bow (front) and stern (back)
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ a "foldable" open boat with oars and sails
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_ infested with insect larvae
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_ used to collect human or food/ water wastes
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_ primitive toilet or bathroom
- 7. \_\_\_\_\_ food made by boiling meal or flour in water or milk until it is soft
- 8. \_\_\_\_\_ people belonging to a religious group that wants to separate from the main group, a name sometimes used for the Puritans
- 9. \_\_\_\_\_ Type of rock used for writing on like we use a black board today
- 10. \_\_\_\_\_ salty, briny, distasteful
- 11. \_\_\_\_\_ English Protestants who wanted simpler, stricter rules of worship
- 12. \_\_\_\_\_ measure of length used at sea, equal to six feet
- 13. \_\_\_\_\_ sighting of, or coming to land
- 14. \_\_\_\_\_ people who go on a journey for religious reasons, or the English Puritans who founded Plymouth Colony in 1620
- 15. \_\_\_\_\_ person under contract to serve or provide labor for a length of time in return for passage on a ship

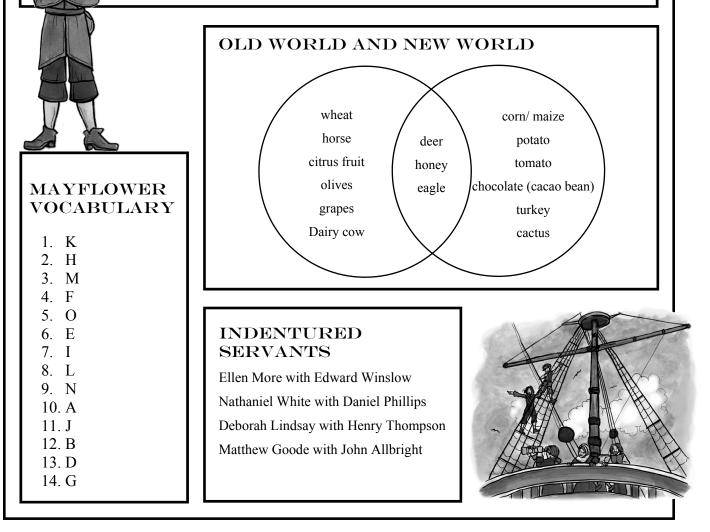
<b>A.</b>	<b>B.</b>	C.	<b>D.</b>	<b>E.</b>
Brackish	Fathom	Indentured Servant	Landfall	Latrine
<b>F.</b>	<b>G.</b>	H.	<b>I.</b>	<b>J.</b>
Maggoty	Pilgrims	Pitching	Porridge	Puritans
<b>K.</b>	L.	<b>M.</b>	N.	<b>O.</b>
Rigging	Separatists	Shallop	Slate	Slop Buckets

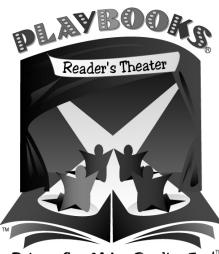
### ANSWER KEY For teacher use only

#### A SEPARATE GOVERNMENT (Sample Answers)

- 1. The men signing the contract agree to meet, to design laws, and to make decisions in the best interests of the colony.
- 2. This was before colonists were seeking to become an independent country, they just wanted the freedom to practice their own religion with a safe distance between themselves and the home country. Also, the king's name appears to be used as an accepted way to make the agreement official, and is also part of the method of dating the contract.
- 3. The idea of covenants was central to the Pilgrim's religious beliefs, and they believed that agreements between people needed to be honored just as covenants with God. This was part of their ideals of integrity. The importance of the Mayflower Compact is apparent when viewed with this knowledge.

4. In the story, Elizabeth and Constance are responsible, along with the other girls, for taking care of the meal cleanup and other chores, while the boys are free to play and do as they wish when not in school. This shows the strict gender roles adhered to in the time of the Pilgrims and is consistent with the fact that women had no political role or power.





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