**The Mayflower Compact, 1620**

*Standards: 4.16, , 8.3, 8.13, Texts to Read*

*[Note: Before the Pilgrims left England they obtained a license from the Virginia Company to settle in Virginia. In November 1620, after storms in the Atlantic Ocean, they landed at Cape Cod (Massachusetts) far north of Virginia. Since they were not under the control of the Virginia colony, the men on board the Mayflower agreed to sign an agreement, or compact, to govern them until they could arrange for a charter for their new colony.]*

“On the day we came into harbor some of our people are upset that we have not landed in Virginia. Since they may cause trouble we thought it would be good for all to agree that we should vote for our leaders and to make laws to govern us. We agree to the following, word for word. In the name of God, Amen. We whose names are signed below, all loyal subjects of our respected and admired lord, King James. . . . Having made this voyage to set up a colony in Northern Virginia for the glory of God, and the spread of the Christian faith and honor of our king and country. We do all agree in the presence of God and one of another, promise to work together to set up a government to make laws for the good of all. We will elect persons from time to time to run the colony for the good of us all. We promise to follow the laws that are made for the good of the colony.”

Questions

1. Why did the Pilgrims believe that the Mayflower Compact was necessary?

2. By signing the Mayflower Compact what were the Pilgrims agreeing to do?

3. If you had been one of the Pilgrims on the Mayflowerwould you have signed the agreement? Why or why not?