

Complete the text with *one* word.

The king of England had granted the Pilgrims land near the Hudson River; the autumn storms _____ 1 driven the Mayflower about two hundred and twenty miles northeast of that point. With no hope of traveling south, they decided to settle right where they were in modern-day Massachusetts, but they were well outside any European rule. The Pilgrims could not abide a lack _____ 2 law and order, so before they even got _____ 3 the Mayflower, they did something that had never _____ 4 done before: these ordinary people drew up the Mayflower Compact – a historical document that would _____ 5 on to influence the founding of the United States of America.

A proclaimed self-governance

1. It proclaimed self-governance in the New World. The travelers on the Mayflower had been granted land in Virginia, but because they landed in Massachusetts, some non-Separatists argued that they should _____ 6 able to do whatever they wanted. They threatened mutiny, saying the laws and regulations no longer applied _____ 7 their new colony. The colonists needed to act quickly to keep their colony together – even before they had disembarked. They needed some form of government that they could construct rapidly to prevent a rebellion and survive the winter.

While still aboard the Mayflower, the Pilgrims composed and signed the Mayflower Compact. At this time, governmental power in Europe came _____ 8

a king, but they didn't have the luxury of waiting for the king of England. Instead, the governmental authority had to come from the people themselves. Even though the Mayflower Compact promised allegiance _____ 9 the king of England, this was also the first time self-government had been established in the New World.

The Pilgrims joined themselves into a body politic to elect a governor and a few assistants to run their colony; annual elections were to be _____ 10, and the job required that the winner tend to the specifics of running the settlement. The Mayflower Compact was written _____ 11 haste out of necessity, which is why they introduced self-governance into the New World for the first time. The Pilgrims did not intend to declare independence or break _____ 12 from the English government – they only wanted to keep their colony together in a strange wilderness, and self-governance was the only way for them to do it.

2. It promised just and fair laws.

To establish a communal government that everyone would agree _____ 13 follow, the Mayflower Compact also promised just and fair laws. It may seem strange to us that the Mayflower Compact was fair; women did not have voting rights, and the non-Separatists did not have a voice in the Compact's creation. However, the agreement specified that the laws must benefit everyone in the colony, and it kept them _____ 14 falling into anarchy. For the colony to survive, the Pilgrims needed as many law-abiding people _____ 15 possible, so they set up this temporary set of laws.

Current and future laws had to be for the colony's good, and everyone agreed to live _____ 16 these laws.

The compact also stated that colonists would live _____ 17 accordance with the Christian faith.

While this may seem non-inclusive to us now, the colonists were not thinking about religious freedoms at the time. While not everyone on the Mayflower was part of the Separatists, almost everyone in Europe belonged _____ 18 a Christian denomination, so they were familiar _____ 19 the practices of the Christian faith. They would have seen this stipulation as a natural outgrowth of living in a new colony together, even though we now value multi-religious communities.

Forty-one adult male colonists signed the Mayflower Compact _____ 20 November 11, 1620.

Although the compact set laws for the colony and established a precedent for keeping the rules just and fair for all, it did not settle the questionable right they had to the land.

That would not be resolved until June 1621, when the Pilgrims obtained a patent from the Council for New England to settle the Plymouth Colony.