

**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they did something that had never \_\_\_\_\_ 4 done before: these ordinary people drew up the Mayflower Compact – a historical document that would \_\_\_\_\_ 5 on to influence the founding of the United States of America.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.