

Voices in Colonies

Find early examples of colonists taking part in government.

5.13.B "identify examples of representative government in the American colonies, including the Mayflower Compact and the Virginia House of Burgesses."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the names of the two colonial examples. Underline details that show how each one gave colonists a voice in government, and write 1 by Mayflower Compact evidence and 2 by House of Burgesses evidence.

Colonists and Government

- ① In representative government, people choose representatives to speak and vote for their communities. This idea appeared in several English colonies in North America. Colonists did not all have the right to vote. Rules often limited voting to certain adult men, such as property owners. Still, meetings and elected representatives gave some colonists a way to help make local laws and decisions.
- ② In 1620, the Mayflower carried English Separatists and other passengers to New England. After arriving near Cape Cod, 41 men signed the Mayflower Compact. The agreement said they would form a civil body politic, or group organized to govern, and make fair laws for the colony's general good. The Compact did not create elected representatives, but it showed that the signers agreed to make decisions together under laws they accepted.
- ③ Virginia used a different method. In 1619, the Virginia Company allowed settlers to elect representatives called burgesses. Two burgesses from each settlement met with the governor and his council in Jamestown. This meeting was the first Virginia House of Burgesses. The burgesses discussed laws and local concerns, bringing settlers' views to the government. It was an early example of representative government because elected men spoke for their communities.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the Mayflower Compact show that colonists would make decisions together?

2 Who were the burgesses, and what did they do in the Virginia House of Burgesses?

3 How was the Virginia House of Burgesses different from the Mayflower Compact?

4 What evidence shows that the Virginia House of Burgesses was an example of representative government?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine that you live in Harbor Settlement. Write three sentences explaining how your settlement will use representative government: tell who chooses representatives, what the representatives will decide, and why this plan gives people a voice.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle the names of the two colonial examples. Underline details that show how each one gave colonists a voice in government, and write 1 by Mayflower Compact evidence and 2 by House of Burgesses evidence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Mayflower Compact show that colonists would make decisions together?	The signers agreed to form a civil body politic and make fair laws for the colony's general good.
2	Who were the burgesses, and what did they do in the Virginia House of Burgesses?	Burgesses were elected representatives from the settlements. They met with the governor and council to discuss laws and local concerns.
3	How was the Virginia House of Burgesses different from the Mayflower Compact?	The House of Burgesses included elected representatives. The Mayflower Compact did not create elected representatives, although its signers agreed to make laws together.
4	What evidence shows that the Virginia House of Burgesses was an example of representative government?	Settlers elected burgesses from each settlement, and the burgesses brought settlers' views to the government.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Harbor Settlement, eligible voters choose one representative from each neighborhood. The representatives meet to decide where to build a new well and listen to neighbors before voting. This is representative government because the elected representatives speak for the people who chose them.

Accept responses that describe people choosing representatives, representatives making a community decision, and an explanation that representatives speak for voters. Historical examples should distinguish the Compact's agreement to make laws from the House of Burgesses's elected representatives.