

Colonial Power Choices

Compare monarchy and representative government in early colonies.

5.13 "Government. The student understands the organization of governments in colonial America. The student is expected to: compare the systems of government of early European colonists, including representative government and monarchy..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show who held power in a monarchy, circle details that show how representatives were chosen, and number the Mayflower Compact 1 and the House of Burgesses 2.

Who Had a Voice?

- ① European colonists brought different ideas about government to North America. In a monarchy, a king or queen holds major power. English, Spanish, and French colonies all had ties to monarchs across the Atlantic. Monarchs appointed governors or gave companies permission to govern. Colonists often had to follow laws and orders made by leaders they did not elect.
- ② Other colonists used representative government, a system in which people choose representatives to help make laws. Representatives were expected to speak for the people who chose them. In 1619, Virginia's House of Burgesses met. Virginia settlers elected burgesses, or representatives, to take part in making local laws with the governor and council. This gave some colonists a voice, although not everyone could vote.
- ③ In 1620, the Mayflower carried English Separatists, often called Pilgrims, and other passengers to New England. Before going ashore, 41 adult male passengers signed the Mayflower Compact. They agreed to form a civil body politic and make just laws for the colony's good. The Compact was an early example of colonists agreeing to govern themselves, but it did not give all colonists equal political rights.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How was a monarchy different from representative government, according to the passage?

2 How did the Virginia House of Burgesses give some colonists a voice in government?

3 What did the people who signed the Mayflower Compact agree to do?

4 What was one way the Mayflower Compact and the House of Burgesses were alike?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine two new colonies are deciding who should make a rule about a town market. Write exactly four sentences comparing a monarchy and a representative government. Explain which colony gives settlers more of a voice and why.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that show who held power in a monarchy, circle details that show how representatives were chosen, and number the Mayflower Compact 1 and the House of Burgesses 2. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How was a monarchy different from representative government, according to the passage?	In a monarchy, a king or queen held major power. In representative government, people chose representatives to help make laws.
2	How did the Virginia House of Burgesses give some colonists a voice in government?	Virginia settlers elected burgesses to help make local laws with the governor and council.
3	What did the people who signed the Mayflower Compact agree to do?	They agreed to form a civil body politic and make just laws for the good of the colony.
4	What was one way the Mayflower Compact and the House of Burgesses were alike?	Both were examples of colonists taking part in governing themselves.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Harbor Colony, the king appoints a governor who makes rules about the market. The colonists cannot elect the governor. In River Colony, settlers elect two representatives to help make market rules. River Colony gives settlers more of a voice because they choose people to speak for them.

Accept answers that accurately contrast rule by a monarch with government in which people elect representatives. For the open response, accept a logical fictional comparison that explains why elected representatives give settlers a voice.