Analyzing the Mayflower Compact

In the name of God, Amen:

We, whose names are underwritten, the Loyal Subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord, King James, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, etc.

Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honour of our King and Country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern Parts of Virginia:

Do by these Presents, solemnly and mutually in the Presence of God and of one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil Body Politick, for our better Ordering and Preservation, and Furtherance of the aforesaid Ends;

And by Virtue hereof to enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions and Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the General good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due Submission and Obedience.

In Witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names at Cape Cod the 11th of November, in the Reign of our Sovereign Lord, King James of England, France and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth. Anno Domini, 1620.

We, who signed this document, the loyal subjects of the supreme King James, by the grace of God, etc.

We decided to start a colony in northern Virginia for these reasons: 1. For the glory of God. 2. To advance the Christian faith. 3. The honor the king and our country.

With the people that are present, we seriously commit to work together and promise to form a government for the benefit of all of us. We will work together better than alone.

As is states in this document, we will make laws and political offices when it is proper and necessary for the good of the colony. We promise that we will obey the laws and rules that are established.

Showing that we agree to these ideas, we will sign our names today at Cape Cod on November 11, 1620, during the reign of King James of England, France, Ireland, and Scotland.
Forasmuch as it has pleased Almighty God by the wise disposition of His Divine Providence so to order and dispose of things that we, the inhabitants of Windsor, Hartford, and Wethersfield are now cohabitating and dwelling in and upon the river of the Connecticut and the land thereunto adjoining; and well knowing where a people are gathered together that the Word of God requires that, to maintain the peace and union of such a people, there should be an orderly and decent government established according to God, to order and dispose of the affairs of the people at all seasons as occasions shall require; do therefore associate and conjoin ourselves to be as one public state or commonwealth...As also in our civil affairs to be guided and governed according to such laws, rules, orders, and decrees as shall be made, ordered, and decreed as follows:

1. It is ordered, sentenced, and decreed that there shall be yearly two general assemblies or courts...The first shall be called the Court of Election, wherein shall be yearly chosen...so many magistrates and other public officers as shall be found requisite...

4. It is ordered...that no person be chosen governor above once in two years, and that the governor be always a member of some approved congregation.

5. It is ordered...that to the aforesaid mentioned Court of Election the several towns shall send deputies...Also, the other General Court in September shall be for the making of laws, and any other public occasion which concerns the good of the Commonwealth

7. It is ordered...that after there are warrants given out for any of the said General Courts, the constable or constables of each town shall forthwith give notice distinctly to the inhabitants of the same...that at a place and time ...they meet and assemble themselves together to elect and choose certain deputies to be at the General Court then following to manage the affairs of the Commonwealth.

Preamble:
Because God is great, we are lucky enough to live in the towns of Windsor, Hartford, and Wethersfield near the Connecticut River. We know that when many people live together, the Word of God tells us that to live peacefully, there should be an orderly government established according to God's rules. Therefore, to honor God we are establishing a government together that will set the rules and laws which we will live by.

Laws:
1. Every year there will be two elections. The first election will be called the Court of Election, where the public officials will be elected.

4. No one can be governor for more than two years and that person always has to belong to an approved church.

5. The towns shall send representatives to the Court of Election. Also, the General Court in September is for making laws. (This is where the elected officials come to make laws).

7. When it is time for a General Court, the police in town will notice the townspeople. Then the townspeople will elect members people to represent their town at the General Assembly meeting.
1. What is the point of the Mayflower Compact?

2. Why do the Pilgrims say they are starting a colony?

3. Why do the Pilgrims decide to make a government?

4. Why do the people who wrote the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut say they are forming a government?

5. What are some differences between the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut and the Mayflower Compact?

6. What is important about these early documents?