In this activity, you will learn about the passengers of the *Mayflower* and why many of the men onboard signed an historic agreement called the *Mayflower Compact*.

***While You Watch***

1. Before you play the video, review the highlighted words and phrases below. Write your own definitions where space is provided.
2. **Watch the video** once all the way through and listen for the highlighted words and phrases. Next, read the transcript below and revise your definitions if the video gave you a new understanding. Watch the video again as needed.
3. Circle words and/or sections of the transcript that you do not understand.

|  |
| --- |
| **Title Card:** Much of what we know about the *Mayflower's* voyage and the *Mayflower Compact* comes from William Bradford's book, *Of Plymouth Plantation.* |
| **compact:** |
| **NARRATOR:**Summer was fading fast, and the window for attempting the long and dangerous ocean crossing had already started to close—when on September 6th, 1620, an aging 180-tun ship called the *Mayflower* set out on her own across the North Atlantic—on what would prove to be one of the most historic voyages of the millennium. |
| **tun:** A large cask with a capacity of 256 gallons. Mariners and merchants of that era described the size of a ship by how many tuns (or equivalent volume) of goods she could carry. |
| **Nick Bunker, Author, *Making Haste From Babylon*:**  They weren’t the people that you would expect to be founding a new colony... at least half of them were Separatists—radical Protestants, who were religious exiles who had been living in Leiden in the Dutch Republic. |
| **colony:** |
| **Separatists:** The core members of the Pilgrims' immigrant group were Separatists, members of a Puritan sect that had split from the Church of England, the only legal church in England at that time.  **Leiden:**  Take a moment to locate Leiden, the Netherlands on a world map. |
| **NARRATOR:** Under-supplied and overcrowded, and with the “Strangers” the investors had insisted go with them – the *Mayflower* left Plymouth harbor off the south coast of England. |
| **Plymouth harbor:**  Take a moment to locate Plymouth harbor, England, on a world map. |
| **NARRATOR:** William Bradford remembered her finally setting forth under a “prosperous wind.” |
| **BRADFORD [Voice of actor Roger Rees]:   “**And so they left ... but they knew they were pilgrims, and looked not much on those things, but lift up their eyes to the heavens, their dearest country...” |
| **pilgrims:** |
| **Nick Bunker, Author, *Making Haste From Babylon*:** If you wanted to go to America, to Virginia or New England, you should try to leave in February or March, at the latest, so you could get there in the spring – and give yourself a full spring and summer to become accustomed to the new world and to do all the things you had to do before the winter set in. In fact, of course, they ended up leaving in September—which was about as bad as it could be. |
| **New England:** Take a moment to locate New England, U.S., on a world map. |
| **NARRATOR:** Early on the morning of Thursday, November 9th,  1620 – after more than two months at sea –  a crew member spied a line of high bluffs. It was the first land they had seen in sixty-five days. |
| **bluffs:** |
| **NARRATOR:** But even before they dropped anchor, long festering tensions between the Strangers and the Pilgrims broke out into the open. |
| **NARRATOR:**   Many of the Strangers began to speak openly of splintering off and going their own way, once they came ashore. |
| **BRADFORD [Voice of actor Roger Rees]: “**This day—before we came to harbor—observing some not well affected to unity and concord, but gave some appearance of faction, that we should combine together in one body, and submit to such government and governors—as we should by common consent agree to make and choose—and set our hands to this that follows word for word.” |
| **“unity and concord”:**    **faction:**  **“by common consent agree”:** |
| **NARRATOR:** On the morning of November 11th, 1620, the *Mayflower* compact was offered up for signature. The vast majority of the men on aboard put their names to the paper, stating that they agreed to combine themselves “together into a civil body politic,” with the power to enact whatever laws proved necessary to preserve the group. |
| **“civil body politic”:** |
| **NARRATOR:** Years later—when William Bradford and others codified the rules of Plymouth Colony in a new Book of Laws—on the very first page they described the Compact as “a solemne & binding combination”—whose authority came from the fact that it was based upon the vote of the governed.  END OF TRANSCRIPT |