Forty-one Pilgrims signed the Mayflower Compact in 1620. That document helped the Pilgrims start a government in their new home, the Plymouth Colony.

The Mayflower compact 1620

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| [1] We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our  [2] dread Sovereign Lord King James, by the Grace of God of Great  [3] Britain, France, and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, etc.  [4] Having undertaken, for the Glory of God and advancement of the  [5] Christian Faith and Honour of our Kind and Country, a Voyage to  [6] plant the First Colony in the Northern Parts of Virginia, do by  [7] these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and  [8] one of another, Covenant and Combine ourselves together into a  [9] Civil Body Politic, for our better ordering and preservation and  [10] furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact,  [11] constitute and frame such just and equal laws. Ordinances, Acts,  [12] Constitutions and Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought  [13] most meet and convenient for the general good of the Colony, unto  [14] which we promise all due submission and obedience.  [15] In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at  [16] Cape Cod, the 11th of November, in the year of the reign of our  [17] Sovereign Lord King James of England, France and Ireland the  [18] eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty – fourth. Anno Domino 1620.  John Carver Edward Tilley Degory Prieat  William Bradford John Tilley Thomas Williams  Edward Winslow Francis Cooke Gilbert Winslow  William Brewster Thomas Rogers Edmund Margeson  Issac Allerton Thomas Tinker Peter Browne  Myles Standish John Rigdale Richard Britteridge  John Alden Edward Fuller George Soule  Samuel Fuller John Turner Richard Clarke  Christopher Martin Francis Eaton Richard Gardiner  William Mullins James Chilton John Allerton  William White John Crackston Thomas English  Richard Warren John Billington Edward Dotey  John Howland Moses Fletcher Edward Leister  Stephen Hopkins John Goodman |