

# 4th Grade

Day 3

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The astronauts from Apollo 17 completed 3 spacewalks while on the moon for a total duration of 22 hours 4 minutes. How many minutes did the astronauts walk in space?

# American Government - The Mayflower Compact

by ReadWorks



*The Mayflower Compact, 1620*

You have probably heard about the Pilgrims and how they celebrated America's first Thanksgiving. But, did you know the Pilgrims left our country another important legacy as well?

It all began in November 1620. The Pilgrims were on board their ship, the *Mayflower*. After many days at sea, they finally saw land. Even though everyone was happy to see the new land, some of the families on the ship were arguing. They disagreed on how to do things.

The Pilgrims were landing in an area that was not controlled by England. To survive, the Pilgrims would have to work together and create a colony. They would have to build houses, find food, and take care of themselves. Everyone would need to get along and help.

Before they landed, the Pilgrims found a way that they would be able to work together. The 41 men aboard the *Mayflower* met and signed the Mayflower Compact. The compact organized the pilgrims into a "body politic." This political body, or government, would act with one purpose. It would work to create "just and equal laws" for everyone to obey.

There is little doubt that the Mayflower Compact created order and helped the Pilgrims to survive. Its legacy, however, continues to this day. The document is the first example in the New World of a constitution. The Mayflower Compact was written *by* the Pilgrims and meant to be *for* them as well. This principle of government being "by, of, and for the people" is one of the main ideas of democracy. Later, this principle would become a cornerstone of American government and the United States Constitution.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. The Mayflower Compact was the first

- A. celebration of what we call Thanksgiving.
- B. constitution in the New World.
- C. a meeting to decide where to settle.
- D. English ship to come to America.

2. The author explains what the Mayflower Compact did and then

- A. explains why it is similar to the U.S. Constitution.
- B. discusses constitutions that came before it.
- C. explains why the colony could not survive.
- D. describes the men who wrote the document.

3. Based on the passage, what might have happened to the Pilgrims without the Mayflower Compact?

- A. They would have won independence from England sooner.
- B. Their ship would have never reached the Americas.
- C. They would have never set sail from England.
- D. They might have fought too much to be a successful colony.

4. Read the following sentences: "The Mayflower Compact was written *by* the Pilgrims and meant to be *for* them as well. This principle of government being "by, of, and for the people" is one of the main ideas of democracy."

The word **principle** means

- A. an argument against something
- B. the first of a kind
- C. a belief, an idea
- D. a government employee

5. This passage is mostly about

- A. how the Mayflower Compact is important in American history.
- B. how the Pilgrims decided where to start a colony.
- C. the man who came up with the idea for a constitution.
- D. why the Mayflower Compact was better than the Constitution.

6. Explain how the Mayflower Compact organized the pilgrims.

7. Explain why having a government "by, of, and for the people" would have helped the Pilgrims get along?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

At first, the Pilgrims were arguing, but \_\_\_\_\_ they had a document they agreed on.

- A. before
- B. as a result
- C. never
- D. soon

# The Night Hunter

This text is provided courtesy of the National Audubon Society.

*Illustrations by Sherrie York*

An owl has all the "tools" it needs for successful hunting in the dark. Special soft feathers allow it to fly with silent wings. The big eyes see in the poor light, and the keen ears pick up faint sounds of a small animal scurrying in the leaves. When an owl pounces, its powerful feet and sharp talons capture the prey.



## **A faint noise in the dark... Where is it coming from?**

The screech-owl turns its head so the round disks of its face concentrate the sound and move it toward the ears. Hearing the sound a second time, the owl pinpoints the source and starts the attack.



### **The owl springs from its high perch.**

With special wing feathers muffling the sound, the owl flies silently toward the noise. Its eyes, adapted to see at night, detect the movement of a small animal on the ground.



### **Swooping low, the owl zooms in on its prey.**

The owl raises its strong wings, which now work like brakes. At the last second, its powerful legs and feet shoot forward. The sharp talons pierce the body of a field mouse, killing it instantly.



**Landing on a nearby tree branch, the owl flips the mouse into its mouth.**

The owl bobs its head up and down as it swallows the meal whole, headfirst. Then it returns to its high perch to start hunting again.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why are owls able to fly silently?

- A. They have sharp talons.
- B. They have special soft feathers.
- C. They fly very slowly.
- D. They have a large wingspan.

2. What does this text describe?

- A. This text describes how an owl hunts for prey.
- B. This text describes the type of food owls eat.
- C. This text describes the different types of owls.
- D. This text describes how baby owls learn how to hunt.

3. An owl has "tools" that help it hunt in the dark.

What evidence from the text supports this statement?

- A. An owl's wings work as brakes.
- B. An owl swallows its meals whole.
- C. Owls hunt from a high perch.
- D. An owl's big eyes can see in the poor light.

4. Read these sentences from the text:

The screech-owl turns its head so the round disks of its face concentrate the sound and move it toward the ears. Hearing the sound a second time, the owl **pinpoints** the source and starts the attack.

What does the word **pinpoints** mean in the text above?

- A. to attack quickly
- B. to pass slowly
- C. to locate exactly
- D. to ignore

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. When an owl zooms in on its prey, it raises its wings as a way to brake.
- B. Owls have many characteristics that allow it to successfully hunt in the dark.
- C. Owls can fly silently because they have extremely soft feathers.
- D. Owls swallow their prey whole, headfirst.