Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Virginia’s House of Burgesses (1619)

PREAMBLE/PURPOSE:

TO all People, to whom these Presents shall come, be seen, or heard, The Treasurer, Council, and Company of Adventurers and Planters for the City of London for the first Colony of Virginia, send Greeting. KNOW YE, that we, the said Treasurer, Council, and Company, taking into our careful Consideration the present State of the said Colony of Virginia., and intending, by the Divine Assistance, to **settle such a Form of Government there**, as may be to the greatest Benefit and Comfort of the People, and whereby all Injustice, Grievances, and Oppression may be prevented and kept of as much as possible from the said Colony, have thought fit to make our Entrance, by ordering and establishing such Supreme Councils, as may not only be assisting to the Governor for the time being, in the Administration of Justice, and the executing of other Duties to this office belonging, but also, by their vigilant care and Prudence, may provide, as well for a Remedy of all Inconveniences, growing from time to time, as also for advancing of Increase, Strength, Stability, and Prosperity of the said Colony:

STRUCTURE:

II. WE therefore, the said Treasurer, Council, and Company, by Authority directed to us from his Majesty under the Great Seal, upon mature Deliberation, do hereby order and declare, that, from hence forward, there shall be **TWO SUPREME COUNCILS** in Virginia, for the better Government of the said Colony aforesaid.

THE COUNCIL OF STATE:

III. THE one of which Councils, to be called **THE COUNCIL OF STATE** (and whose Office shall chiefly be assisting, with their Care, Advise, and Circumspection, to the said Governor) shall be chosen, nominated, placed and displaced, from time to time, by Us, the said Treasurer, Council, and Company, and our Successors: …they bend their Care and Endeavours to assist the said Governor; first and principally, in the Advancement of the Honour and Service of God, and the Enlargement of his Kingdom amongst the Heathen People; and next, in erecting of the said Colony in due obedience to his Majesty, and all lawful Authority from his Majesty's Directions; and lastly, in maintaining the said People in Justice and Christian Conversation amongst themselves…

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

IV. The other Council, more generally to be called by the Governor, once yearly, and no oftener, but for very extraordinary and important occasions, shall consist, for the present, of the said Council of State, and of two Burgesses out of every Town, Hundred, or other particular Plantation, to be respectively chosen by the Inhabitants: Which Council shall be called **THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**, wherein (as also in the said Council of State) all Matters shall be decided, determined, and ordered, by the greater Part of the Voices then present; reserving to the Governor always a Negative Voice. And this General Assembly shall have free Power to treat, consult, and conclude, as well of all emergent Occasions concerning the Publick Weal of the said Colony and every Part thereof, as also to make, ordain, and enact such general Laws and Orders, for the Behoof of the said Colony, and the good Government thereof, as shall, from time to time, appear necessary or requisite;

HOUSE OF BURGESSES AND ENGLISH MONARCHY

V. WHEREAS in all other Things, ire require the said General Assembly, as also the said Council of State, to imitate and follow the Policy of the Form of Government, Laws, Customs, and Manner of Trial, and other Administration of Justice, used in the Realm of England, as near as may be, even as ourselves, by his Majesty's Letters Patent, are required.

APPROVAL OF LAWS

VI. PROVIDED, that no Law or Ordinance, made in the said General Assembly, shall be or continue in Force or Validity, unless the same shall be solemnly ratified and confirmed, in a General Quarter Court of the said Company here in England and so ratified, be returned to them under our Seal; It being our Intent to afford the like Measure also unto the said Colony, that after the Government of the said Colony shall once have been well framed, and settled accordingly, which is to be done by Us, as by Authority derived from his Majesty, and the same shall have been so by us declared, no Orders of Court afterwards shall bind the said Colony, unless they be ratified in like Manner in the General Assemblies. IN WITNESS whereof we have hereunto set our Common Seal, the 24th of July 1621, and in the Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord, JAMES; King of England, &c., the \* \* \* and of Scotland the \* \* \*

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Virginia’s House of Burgesses**

IN COMPLETE SENTENCES, answer the following questions using the primary source from the House of Burgesses.

1. What is the purpose of creating the House of Burgesses?
2. How is the House of Burgesses divided? What are the divisions called?
3. What is the role of the Council of State?
4. How are decisions made within the General Assembly house in the House of Burgesses? **In addition** to your response, provide a quote from the reading where you found your answer.

1. Although the House of Burgesses is its own government, what must its laws and customs follow? **In addition** to your response, provide a quote from the reading where you found your answer.

1. **IN YOUR OWN WORDS, EXPLAIN THE FOLLOWING QUOTE:**

*Provided, that no Law or Ordinance, made in the said General Assembly, shall be or continue in Force or Validity, unless the same shall be solemnly ratified and confirmed, in a General Quarter Court of the said Company here in England and so ratified, be returned to them under our Seal.*

Mayflower Compact (1620)

In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread Sovereigne Lord, King James, by the grace of God, of Great Britaine, France and Ireland king, defender of the faith, etc. having undertaken, for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith, and honour of our king and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the Northerne parts of Virginia, doe by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a **civil body politic**, for our better ordering and preservation, and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enacte, constitute, and frame such just and equall laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meete and convenient for the generall good of the Colonie unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape-Codd the 11. of November, in the year of the raigne of our sovereigne lord, King James, of England, France and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fiftie-fourth. Anno Dom. 1620.

* John Carver
* William Bradford
* Edward Winslow
* William Brewster
* Issac Allerton
* Myles Standish
* John Alden
* Samuel Fuller
* Christopher Martin
* William Mullins
* William White
* Richard Warren
* John Howland
* Stephen Hopkins
* Edward Tilley
* John Tilley
* Francis Cooke
* Thomas Rogers
* Thomas Tinker
* John Rigdale
* Edward Fuller
* John Turner
* Francis Eaton
* James Chilton
* John Crackston
* John Billington
* Moses Fletcher
* John Goodman
* Degory Priest
* Thomas Williams
* Gilbert Winslow
* Edmund Margeson
* Peter Browne
* Richard Britteridge
* George Soule
* Richard Clarke
* Richard Gardiner
* John Allerton
* Thomas English
* Edward Dotey
* Edward Leister

7. According to the Mayflower Compact, what is the purpose of the new government in Plymouth, or, for that matter, of government in general?

8. To what sources of authority do the signers of the Mayflower Compact appeal?

9. Why do you think it was important to the Puritans that the Compact be written down and signed? How was this different from, say, the English Constitution? Given their background, what cultural or religious antecedents might they be drawing on in choosing thus?