

# Inspiration for a New Nation

## Historical Documents and Their Impact on the Founders



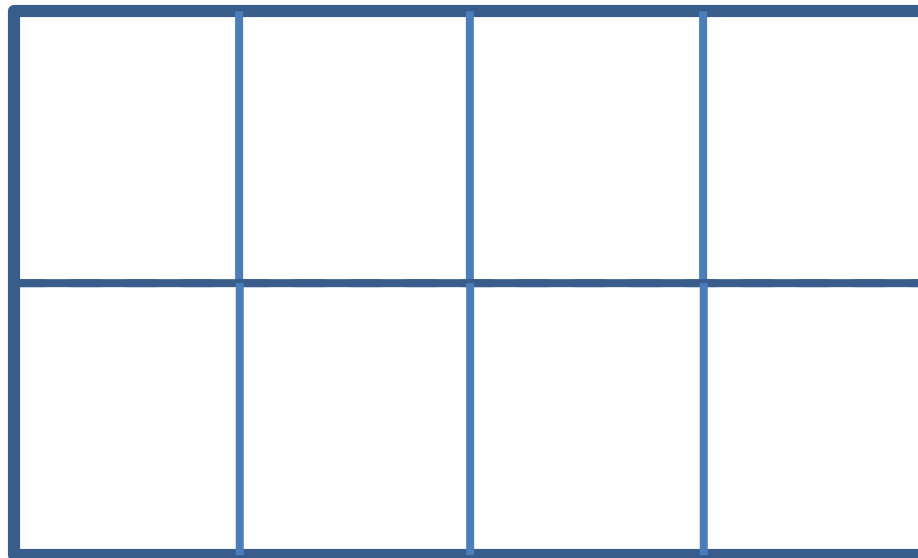
### Benchmarks

**SS.7.C.1.2** Trace the impact that the Magna Carta, English Bill of Rights, Mayflower Compact, and Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* had on colonists' views of government.

# First of all...Foldable Notes!

Follow these steps to make foldable notes for this lesson:

1. Fold one sheet of paper in half, long ways (hot dog), to create a crease. Unfold paper and lie flat.
2. Cut one side in 4 equal parts, creating flaps.
3. When folded in half, it will look like the image below.



# Label Your Foldable:

**Magna  
Carta**

**Mayflower  
Compact**

**English Bill  
of Rights**

**Common  
Sense**

**Magna Carta**

**Mayflower Compact**

**English Bill of Rights**

**Common Sense**

**Inspiration for the Nation**

**Limited Government  
Rule of Law**

**Self-government  
Social contract**

**Limited Monarchy  
Rule of Law**

**Purpose of Government --  
security of the people**



# Inspiration for a New Nation

- Where did the colonists and the Founding Fathers get their ideas about our government?



# Magna Carta



- Written in 1215 in England
- Also known as the “Great Charter”
- Written by the barons (title of nobility given to those loyal to the king)
- Granted certain rights and liberties to English nobles:
  - Right to a jury and speedy trial
  - Guarantees against the loss of life, liberty, or property
- Was agreed to by King John of England – no one was above the law

*"To no one will We sell, to no one will We deny or delay, right or justice."*

# Magna Carta

This was the first example  
of *limited government*.

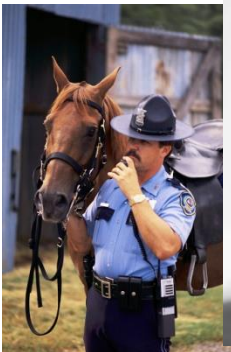
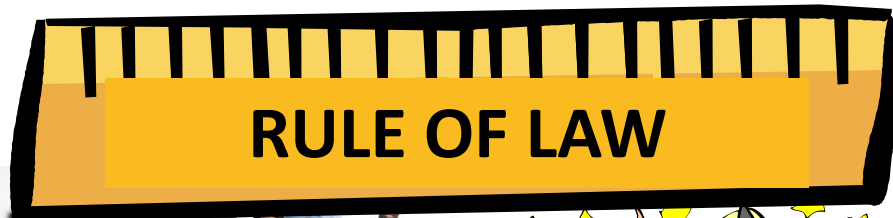
Specifically, a limited monarchy

Why is the concept of “limited government” important?

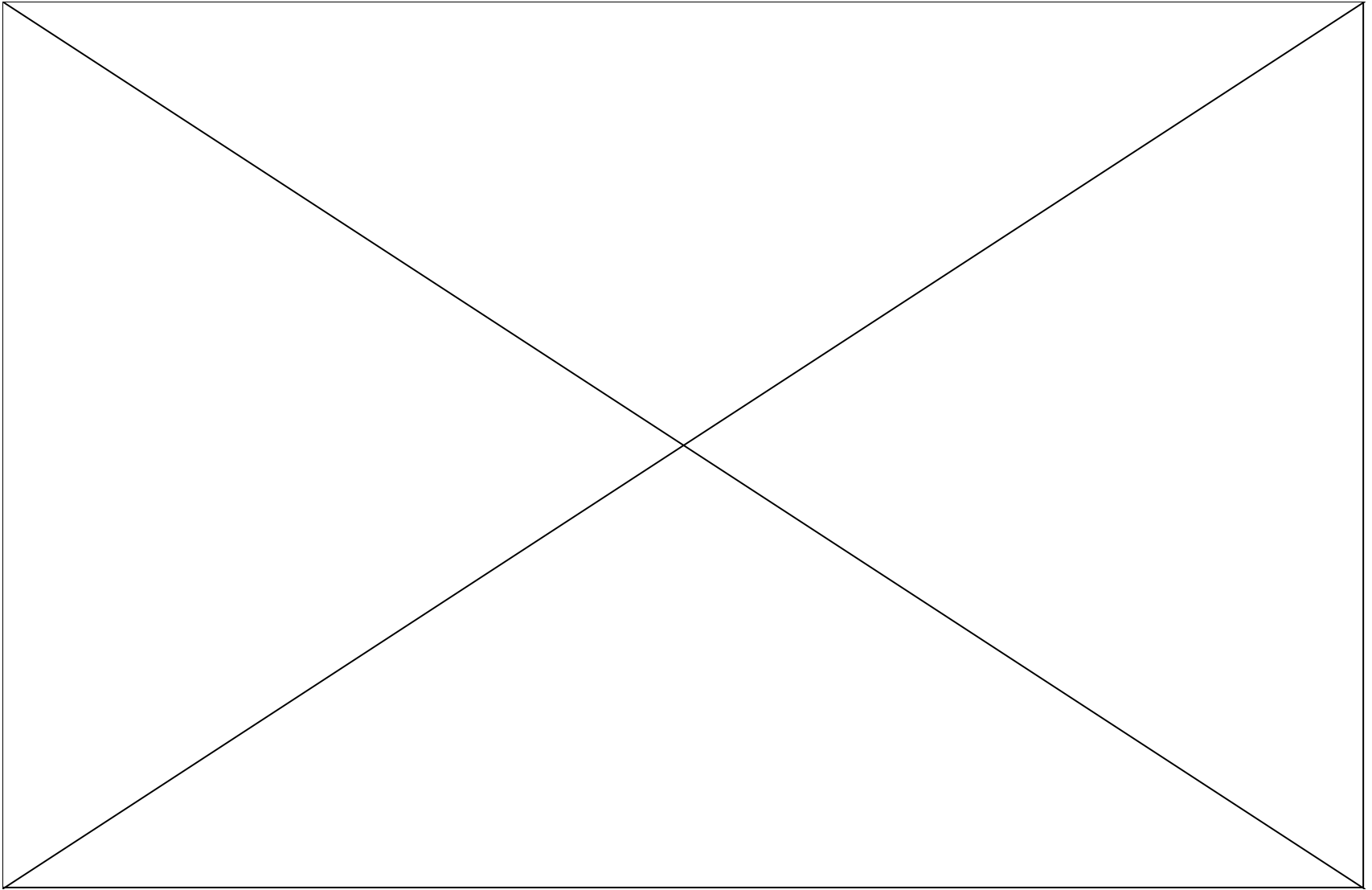
What would a government without limits be like?

# The Magna Carta also addressed the “Rule of Law”

- What do you think “Rule of Law” means?
  - No one – not the King, the President, celebrities, you, the teacher, the principal – is above the law.
  - Everyone is equal under the law







[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F\\_5My8XH-n0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_5My8XH-n0)

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# Magna Carta

Inspiration for the  
Nation  
Limited Government  
Rule of Law



# Mayflower Compact

- Written aboard the *Mayflower* in 1620 before the ship landed in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620.
- Signed by most passengers on the voyage

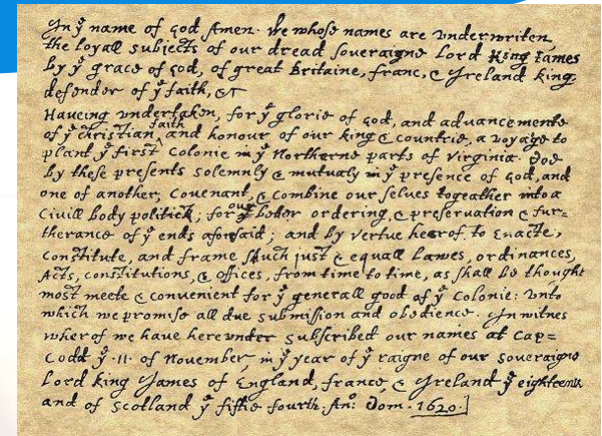


Image from

<http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/revolution/revgfx/may-compact.jpg>

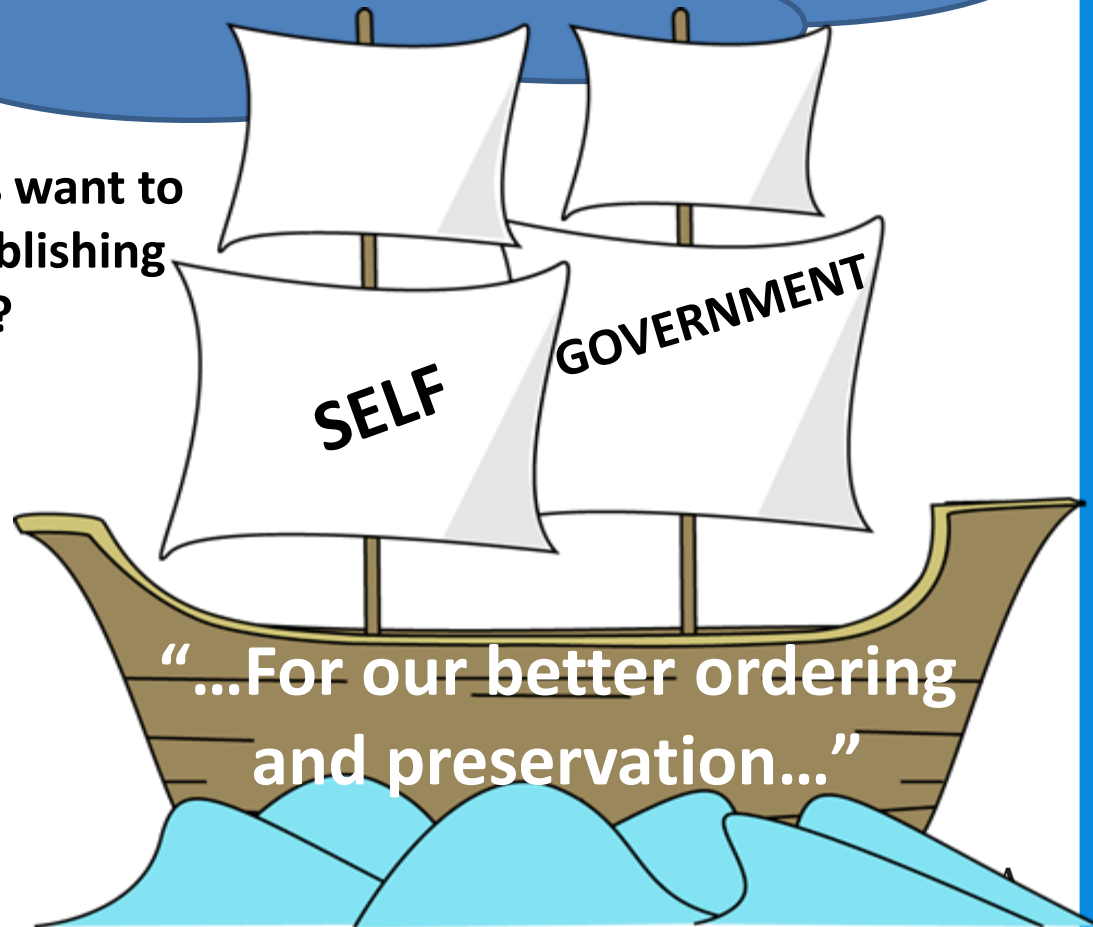
“...Having undertaken...a Voyage to plant the First Colony in the Northern parts of Virginia, do by these present solemnly and **mutually in the presence of...one another, Covenant and Combine ourselves together into a Civil Body Politic, for our better ordering and preservation...to enact constitute, 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...**”

# Mayflower Compact

This document served as an example of *self-government* and John Locke's *social contract*.

Why would the colonists want to create a document establishing self government?

Why would government be necessary according to the Mayflower Compact?



"...For our better ordering and preservation..."

**Magna Carta**

**Mayflower Compact**

**Inspiration for the Nation**

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Rule of Law**

**Self-government  
Social contract**



# English Bill of Rights

- Written in 1689 in England
- Authored by members of Parliament (the legislative branch, or the branch that makes laws)
- This document established a limited monarchy (king) and gave more power to Parliament.

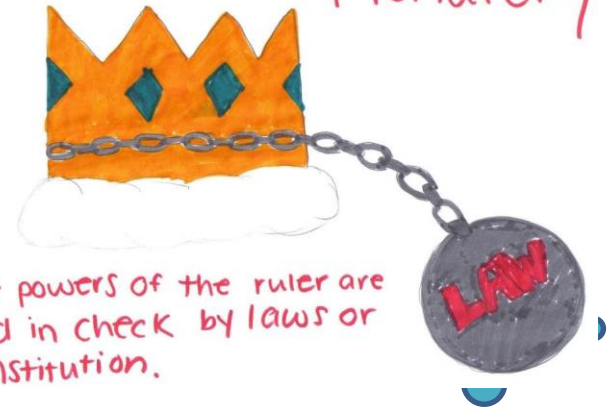
*That excessive bail ought not to be required, nor excessive fines imposed; nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.*

*“That the freedom of speech, and debates or proceedings in parliament, ought not to be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of parliament.”*

# English Bill of Rights

- The monarchy was not allowed to:
  - Collect taxes without consent of Parliament
  - Interfere with the right to free speech and debate in Parliament
  - Maintain an army in peace time
  - Require excessive bail or cruel punishments for those accused or convicted of crimes
  - Declare laws made by Parliament should not be obeyed

Constitutional Monarchy

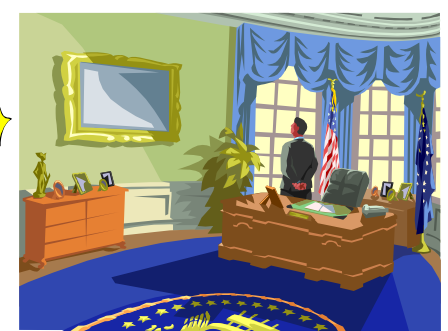
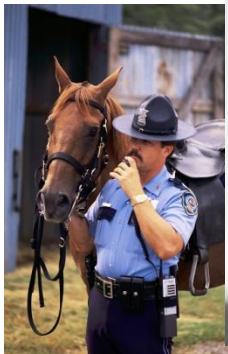
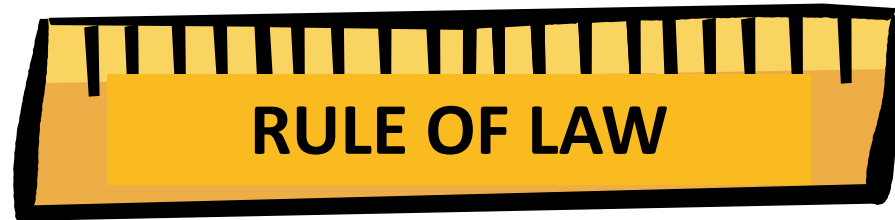


The powers of the ruler are held in check by laws or constitution.

Here we have another example of *limited government*.

Specifically, a limited monarchy

# Also in the **English Bill of Rights** ...



The English Bill of Rights included limits on the power of the king.



**Magna Carta**

**Mayflower Compact**

**English Bill of Rights**

**Inspiration for the Nation**

Limited Government  
Rule of Law

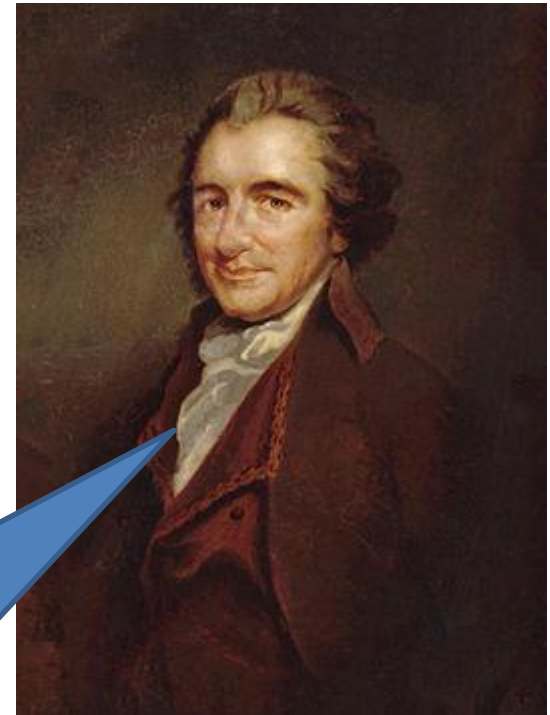
Self-government  
Social contract

Limited Monarchy  
Rule of Law



# “Common Sense”

- Written by Thomas Paine
- Published in 1776
- Challenged the authority of the British government and the royal monarchy.
- First work to openly ask for independence from Great Britain.
- Discussed the purpose of government and the need for independence from Great Britain.



Oil painting by Auguste Millière (1880) from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas\\_Paine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Paine)

Because these things were  
**COMMON SENSE!**

# Common Sense

Society in every state is a blessing, but **Government**, even in its best state, is but a **necessary evil**...Wherefore, **security being the true design and end of government**, it unanswerably follows that whatever form thereof appears most likely to ensure it to us, **with the least expense and greatest benefit**, is preferable to all others.

**Magna Carta**

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# Document Timeline

## Magna Carta

1215

Created the first example of a **limited monarchy and the rule of law.**

## English Bill of Rights

1689

Established a **limited monarchy** and gave power to the law making body . It also reinforced the idea of Rule of Law.

## Mayflower Compact

1620

Provided for the idea of **self government** and **social contract** among the colonists.

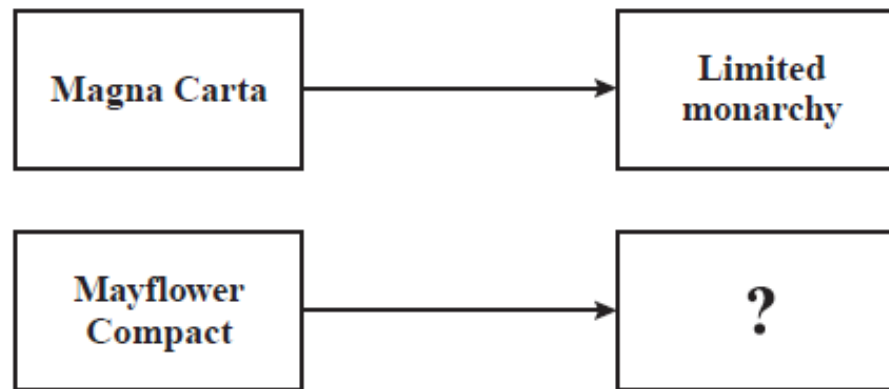
## Common Sense

1776

Discussed the **purpose of government** and the need for American **independence** from the British crown.

# Checking for Understanding

The diagram below shows that the colonists formed some of their political views from some historical documents.



Which phrase completes the diagram?

- A. Separation of powers
- B. Economic freedom
- C. Self-government
- D. Individual rights