**Magna Carta (1215)**

Signed by the King of England, the Magna Carta was the first document to limit the power of England’s monarchy. It established the principle that *rulers are not above the law*, a major step toward **limited government** where people determine the power of government.

Answer on your guided notes:

1. What was the Magna Carta?

2. Why was it so important?

3. What is an example of how it influences our government today?

**The Virginia House of Burgesses** (1619)

The first example of representative government in America where leaders were elected to make laws. The House of Burgesses was the first **bicameral** legislature, which meant there were two parts.

Answer on your guided notes:

1. What was the Virginia House of Burgesses?

2. What is a representative government?

3. What is a bicameral legislature?

4. Where do we see the impact of the Virginia House of Burgesses on our government structure today?

**Mayflower Compact (1620)**

First agreement for self-government signed by the Pilgrims who arrived in Massachusetts. The compact stated that the Pilgrims would make “just and equal laws” for their new society. The Mayflower Compact was an example of a social contract, which is an agreement between people and the government

Answer on your guided notes:

1.What was the Mayflower Compact?

2.What is a social contract?

3.What is self-government?

4. How did this document influence the type of government we have today?

**Fundamental Orders of Connecticut (1639)**

The first written constitution in America that established a pattern of securing guaranteed rights. To colonists, this felt like a guarantee that their rights were secure.

Answer on your guided notes:

1. What is the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut?
2. Why was the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut important?
3. How did this document influence our government today?

**Maryland Toleration Act (1649)**

This act was the first law that guaranteed religious freedom in the colonies. It was originally meant to grant religious tolerance to Christians since Christians at this time were not welcome in the New England colonies so they moved to the Middle colonies, which were known for religious acceptance.

Answer on your guided notes:

1. What was the Maryland Toleration Act?
2. What does religious tolerance mean?

3. How did this act inspire parts of our government today?

**Zenger Case (1734)**

Peter Zenger was jailed for publishing bad things about the NY governor, but when it was found to be factual, he was released. The Zenger case set a precedent that led to the establishment of freedom of the press and freedom of speech.

Answer on your guided notes:

1.What did Peter Zenger do that got him put in jail?

2.How does the outcome of the Zenger case impact parts of our government today?

3. Under what type of government would Zenger have most likely not been released from jail? Why?