



Year 7

Buddhism:

Buddhist Beliefs

Knowledge Organiser & Homework Booklet

Name.....

Buddhist Beliefs – Knowledge Organiser

Key Words			
Ascetic	Someone who lives a life of simplicity and self-denial	Impermanence	Only lasting for a limited amount of time.
Bodh Gaya	The holiest site in Buddhism, where Siddhartha meditated and became the Buddha.	Meditation	The practice of focusing the mind.
Brahmins	Priests in ancient India who interpreted Queen Maya's dream.	Middle Way	A lifestyle between luxury and having nothing at all.
Dhammapada	A Buddhist scripture that contains the Buddha's teachings.	Pali Canon	Main sacred text for many Buddhists.
Dharma	The Buddha's teachings	Parinirvana	A state of complete bliss, entered into by souls that have escaped samsara.
Dukkha	The suffering/dissatisfaction of all beings.	Samsara	The continual cycle of life, death and rebirth.
Eightfold Path	A guide containing eight steps towards enlightenment.	Sanskrit	An ancient Indian language.
Enlightenment	The state of being awakened to the truth about life.	Three poisons	Greed, hatred and delusion.

Key Ideas	
Buddhism	Buddhism is the fourth largest religion in the world, with the majority living in Asia. Buddhism began in a place called Lumbini, in an area of ancient India that is now Nepal. The founder of Buddhism was a prince called Siddhartha Gautama, who later became known as 'the Buddha'. It is important to remember that the Buddha never claimed to be god, so, although his teachings are important to Buddhists, they do not believe that he is divine or that he was sent by God. Buddhists believe that we are travelling through a continual cycle of birth and death and rebirth. They call this cycle Samsara . Buddhists believe that when someone dies he or she is reborn. The person's next life may be better or worse, depending on the karma he or she has stored up. Good actions in life store up good karma; bad actions store up bad karma.
The Noble Eightfold Path	The path consists of eight steps to help people achieve a contented life, and become enlightened. By following the Eightfold Path, Buddhists believe they can overcome the selfish desires that cause all suffering. It directs people to think, speak and act in better ways which helps them to achieve inner peace and eliminate suffering. These eight steps are: Right action, right speech, right livelihood, right mindfulness, right effort, right concentration, right view/understanding and right intention.
The Buddha's early life	Understanding the Buddha's (Siddhartha Gautama) teachings require a knowledge of his early life. He was the son of a Queen who died when he was born. While pregnant, his mother had a dream which was interpreted by Brahmins as showing that her son would become either a great and powerful ruler who would conquer the world or a holy teacher and enlightened being. Siddhartha was raised by his aunt. Wanting him to become a powerful ruler, his father made sure his son had everything he wanted and wouldn't have to see any pain or suffering. Stories of his early life demonstrate his compassion and wisdom from an early age: when he rescued and nursed a wounded swan, and when he became distressed by animal cruelty at a ploughing ceremony.
The Four Sights	By the age of 29, Siddhartha wanted to see the world beyond the royal grounds, he saw 'Four Sights' which changed his perspective about life forever. These were: old age, illness, death and a holy man. Having witnessed suffering, and after meeting a holy man, Siddhartha decided that he needed to leave his life as a prince and search for an answer to the question of how to deal with the suffering in the world.
Buddha's path to enlightenment	Once the Buddha had left his life as a priest behind, he went on to reach enlightenment – however, this happened through a few stages. Firstly he became ascetic, ascetics punish their body in order to try and gain peace and wisdom. This could involve fasting, standing on 1 foot for a long time and sleeping on nails. Siddhartha first tried to control his breath by holding it in for as long as possible, however, this made him feel unwell. He then decided to starve himself, but this also made him ill. He realised that he would die if he continued without enough food, so he decided to give up his ascetic life. As neither extreme brought him closer to finding the answers he was looking for. He thought that the only way to reach peace was to follow the Middle Way - a life of moderation, in which he had neither too much nor too little of anything. Later, Siddhartha visited the North Indian city of Bodh Gaya, he meditated under a Bodhi tree. After defeating the Demon Lord Mara (a story which some Buddhists interpret as true, some as symbolism), he achieved enlightenment and became the Buddha.
The Four Noble Truths	The Buddha said that he did not create any new ideas, he simply tried to explain how the world was. Buddhists call the laws or truths that Buddha discovered 'the dharma'. After coming across some of his ex-followers, he delivered his first sermon, where he revealed the Four Noble Truths. These are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All creatures suffer 2. Suffering is caused by selfish desires 3. Suffering can be ended 4. The way to end suffering is to follow the Eightfold Path

Homework 1: What are the main Buddhist Festivals?

Due:

Read the following passage, and make notes of the key points in the bullet-points below the text.

Songkran

In Thailand the festival of Songkran takes place in April and lasts for 3 days. It is the Thai new year. Buddhists go to the local monastery to give presents to the monks. Everyone eats special foods and wear new clothes.



Water is very important in the festival of Songkran. Boat races are held on rivers and there are often water fights in the streets. Sometimes birds and fish are set free. Songkran ends at midnight on the 3rd day and a drum is beaten and a bell is rung three times.

Wesak

Wesak is celebrated by Buddhists all over the world. It celebrates the 3 most important events of the Buddha's life. Many Buddhists give each other cards and presents. In Thailand people visit the temples and monasteries at Wesak. The monks give talks and speeches about the life and teachings of the Buddha.



Kathina

Kathina is a Thai festival which takes place at the end of the rainy season. It is a time when people can take gifts to the monastery to say thank you to the monks for the work they do over the year. The gifts are useful things like new robes.



Key Points:

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Knowledge Quiz:

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| 1. | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | 6. |

Homework 2: What are the main symbols used in Buddhism?

Due:

Read the following passage and make notes of the key points in the bullet-points below the text. You will be quizzed testing your knowledge of this text in your next lesson.

Why Buddhism uses symbols?

Like all religions, Buddhism includes many ideas which are difficult to explain. Using symbols helps to make things clear without having to use words. In Buddhism, a symbol can express ideas about The Buddha and beliefs about life and enlightenment.

The Three Jewels



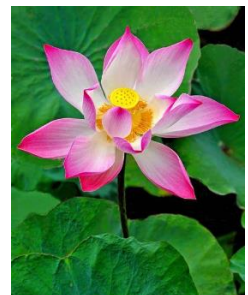
The Three Jewels sum up the most precious part of Buddhist belief.

The 3 jewels represent: The Buddha as founder of Buddhism. The Dharma, the teachings of the Buddha. The Sangha, the Buddhist community.

These remind Buddhists to follow the example of The Buddha and support others who are following the same path.

Lotus

Flower



The Eight-Spoke Wheel



This Eight-Spoke Wheel is often used to represent Buddhism.

The 8 spokes represent the Noble Eightfold Path.

The wheel also looks like an ornate navigation wheel - a way to steer throughout life.

The *Lotus Flower* is a symbol of purity and goodness.

A lotus begins life in the mud at the bottom of a pond and rises to the surface to blossom.

It symbolises the passage from darkness to light, the passage from ignorance to wisdom – it represents

Key Points:

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Knowledge Quiz:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.