

Buddhism- Knowledge Organiser

Overview

Buddhism is one of the world's major religions. It is the world's 4th largest religion, with about 520 million followers. Buddhists are the people who follow Buddhism. They follow the teachings of a man named Siddhartha Gautama, who became known as the Buddha. The religion began when Gautama, a prince who had lived a life of luxury, realised that there was suffering in the world, and committed himself to understanding why. This happened in India around 2,500 years ago. The holy book in Buddhism is called Tipitaka. Buddhist Temples are buildings designed for Buddhist worship.



Top Ten Facts

1. Buddhists don't believe in a God who made the world and everything in it.
2. Siddhartha's family were Hindu.
3. The lotus flower is an important symbol in Buddhism. It is a symbol of enlightenment.
4. The name 'Buddha' means 'the enlightened one' or 'the one who knows.'
5. Some Buddhists have shrines at home where they are able to worship.

Top Ten Facts

6. The teachings of Siddhartha Gautama were not written down until about 400 years after his death.
7. Siddhartha Gautama died around age 80.
8. 'Puja' is the name for worship in Buddhism. People often light candles as they worship.
9. In images of Buddha, faces are always made to look calm and serene, to show that he has a peaceful mind.
10. Wesak is an important festival in Buddhism.

Buddhist Beliefs

Siddhartha Gautama's Story -Siddhartha was a rich prince of an area north of India. His mother and father treated him well and protected him from the suffering in the world. -As a young man, Siddhartha left the palace for the first time, and was upset by the things that he saw: old age, sickness and death. He decided to leave his comfortable life to see if he could find an answer to the suffering. -After many years of trying, he sat under a tree (the Bodhi tree) by a full moon and started meditating. In doing this he became Enlightened – he saw the meaning in all things. He was then known as the Buddha.

The Four Noble Truths -The Buddhist teachings are known as Dharma. They include the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold-Path.

Buddhism's Noble Truths are: 1. Life always involves suffering (dukkha).

2. Suffering happens because people are greedy and never satisfied with what they have.

3. Greed and selfishness can be overcome.

4. The way to overcome them is to follow the Eightfold Path.

The Eightfold Path - Siddhartha created a way of life which ensured that his basic needs were covered but didn't require any extra comforts. Buddhists try to live following the Eightfold Path:

1. Right viewpoint 2. Right values/ thought

3. Right speech 4. Right actions 5. Right livelihood 6. Right effort 7. Right concentration 8. Right mindfulness



Key Vocabulary

Buddha

Buddhist

Siddhartha

Gautama

Tipitaka

Temple

Wesak

4 Noble Truths

Eightfold Path

Lotus Flower

Theravada

Mahayana

Tibetan

Answer to Important questions

Where and how do Buddhists worship? Why? - Buddhists worship either in temples or at home, often sitting or kneeling facing a shrine of Buddha. -They may listen to monks reciting religious texts, take part in chanting, or meditate. -Buddhists hope to achieve Enlightenment. They believe that there is a cycle of birth, life, death and rebirth. If a person gains Enlightenment (like the Buddha) they can break out of this cycle, to a place of eternal peace that is known as 'Nirvana.'

What is the Tipitaka? -The Tipitaka is believed to be Buddha's teachings. It is written in an ancient Indian language known as Pali. It is a very large book, that takes up about forty volumes when translated into English! The Tipitaka is made up of three sections of wisdom.

Where do most Buddhists live in the world? - About 7% of the world's population are Buddhists. -China has the most Buddhists – about 250 million Buddhists live there. -However, Cambodia has the highest proportion of Buddhists – about 97% of its population are Buddhists. There are also lots of Buddhists in Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Japan. -Many Buddhists in the far east devote their lives to Buddhism, living in isolation in temples.

How many different types of Buddhists are there?

-Buddha's teachings spread far across the Asian continent. As it spread, different peoples formed their own approaches of Buddhism. -The three main types are called Theravada, Mahayana and Tibetan Buddhists. - Although they differ slightly, they all still keep the basic features of Buddhism.