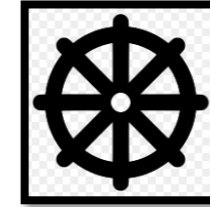


Year Group: Year 4  
 Religion: Buddhism  
 Buddhist festivals



**Final Outcome: Set up a Songkran water fun session.**

Programme of Study  
 NC Requirements

Term - Spring

Learning Objectives	Subject Specific Vocabulary	What do we want children to know?	Assessment Questions	Suggested Learning Activities	Resources	Plenary
Session 1 Enquiry Question: What do we know about Buddhism?			Can children organise their ideas to show what they already know about Buddhism? Do children understand that there is no 'supreme deity' in Buddhism? Can children explain some ways in which Buddhism differs from other religions?	<p><b>Input</b>            Provide groups of children with large sheets of paper. What do you already know about Buddhism? Allow a few minutes for children to draw a mind map. Once they have done this, ask children to share their ideas, adding to their mind maps based on what others have said. Finally, ask children to think of a question about Buddhism they would like to find the answer to and write it on the sheet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did you think of any of these? Show key information about Buddhism. Compare these facts with what you know about other religions. What's different? Children to think, pair, share their ideas.</li> <li>• Explain that one of the major differences is that there is no 'supreme deity' in Buddhism. Explain and explore what that means and how it affects the ways in which Buddhists practise their religion. Encourage children to add information to their mind maps following this discussion.</li> <li>• Explain that today we will be organising our ideas about Buddhism to show some ways in which is 'special', or different to other religions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Activity</b>            In groups, children should discuss the Buddhism Fact Cards and agree which section of their mind map should be added to. They should remove any cards with facts they have already included on their mind map before sticking the remaining cards in the sections agreed. They should then discuss which of the facts on their mind map are different to other religions they have studied, highlighting them to show that they are special.</p>	Large sheets of paper.  Markers/felt pens.  Buddhism fact cards.	Get children to look at each other's mind maps, then return to their own. Can they now answer any of the questions they wrote at the start of the lesson?
Session 2 Enquiry question: Why do Buddhists give offerings during Vesak?			Do children know what is celebrated during Vesak? • Can children explain some ways in which the festival of Vesak is observed? • Can children explain why Buddhists give offerings of food during Vesak?	<p><b>Previous Learning</b>            Can children explain some ways in which Buddhism differs from other religions?</p> <p><b>Input</b>            Explain what Vesak festival is as well as some ways in which it is observed. • Why do you think that followers of Buddhism give offerings of food to monks during Vesak? Children to think, pair, share their ideas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share the story of Siddhartha Gautama and the Ascetics. Explain that later in his life, when Siddhartha became the Buddha, he told this story to his followers. What was he teaching them by re-telling this story? Children to think, pair, share their ideas again. Did you think of these? Explain the significance of the story.</li> <li>• Explain that the monks give something in return for the offerings: they tell stories about the Buddha, teach followers about Buddhism and lead meditation sessions.</li> <li>• Explain that today we will be learning more about why offerings are given during Vesak.</li> </ul> <p><b>Activity</b></p>	The story of Siddhartha Gautama and the Ascetics.  Key statements from the story of Siddhartha Gautama and the Ascetics	Show children key words relating to today's learning. Challenge children to think of statements linking two or more of the words to show what they have learned.

				Children are to choose four most important statements from the story of Siddhartha Gautama and the Ascetics. They should then copy these onto the Buddha Story sheet and illustrate them.		
Session 3 Enquiry question: How and why are significant moments in the life of the Buddha are celebrated?			Do children know some ways in which Buddhists celebrate during the Ploughing Festival? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do children understand why this moment in the Buddha's life is celebrated?</li> <li>Can children explain some ways in which the story reminds Buddhists about the teachings of the Buddha?</li> </ul>	<b>Previous Learning</b>  <b>Input</b> Show pictures of the Ploughing Festival in Thailand. Children to discuss. Describe how the festival is celebrated, then share the story of the Buddha and the Ploughing Festival. What's happening here? • Why is this moment in the Buddha's life celebrated? Children to think, pair, share their ideas. Go on to share some reasons why. • Explain that stories about Buddha and festivals celebrating moments in his life help Buddhists remember and understand important ideas contained in the Buddha's teachings. • Show the Four Noble Truths: children are to discuss how the story of the Ploughing Festival reminds Buddhists about these. • Explain that today we will be learning more about why significant moments in the life of the Buddha are celebrated. <b>Activity</b> Children are to read the story of the Ploughing Festival then write a 'blurb'.	Pictures of the Ploughing Festival in Thailand.  The Four Noble Truths to be displayed.  The story of The Ploughing Festival.	What 'moral' rules do you follow to try and live a good life? Children to think, pair, share their ideas. How were you taught those rules? Again, children to discuss their ideas.
Session 4 Enquiry question: How and why do Buddhists pay respect to the Buddha?			Can children describe some ways in which Loy Krathong is celebrated? Do children understand the significance of giving offerings of flowers and lighting candles? Do children understand the difference between paying respect and worshipping?	<b>Prior Learning</b> Can children explain some ways in which the story reminds Buddhists about the teachings of the Buddha? <b>Input</b> Show pictures of the Loy Krathong festival in Thailand. What's happening here? Children to discuss. Describe the festival and some of the ways in which it is celebrated. • Explain that lighting candles and giving offerings of flowers are central to many Buddhist celebrations and rituals; candles and flowers are often placed in Buddhist shrines. Why do you think they are so important? Children to discuss their ideas. Explain the significance of light and flowers for Buddhists. • Taking part in activities such as these is a way to pay respect to the Buddha and remember his teachings. Explain how this differs from worship of a supreme deity by followers of other religions such as Christianity or Islam. • Explain that today we will be learning more about ways in which Buddhists celebrate the life of the Buddha and pay respect to him. <b>Activity</b> Children are to explain why certain offerings are given during Loy Krathong. They are then to write a wish that they might make when giving an offering during the festival.	Pictures of the Loy Krathong Festival in Thailand.  Pictures of footprint relics.	Did you know that the Buddha is so special for Buddhists that they even pay respect to his footprints? Showing pictures of footprint relics.
Session 5 Enquiry question: How do activities during the festival relate to the teachings of the Buddha?			Can children compare their own New Year's Eve celebrations to those of Buddhists in Thailand during Songkran? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do children understand the significance of the use of water in Buddhist rituals?</li> <li>Can children explain how the use of water in Buddhist rituals relates to the teachings of the Buddha?</li> </ul>	<b>Prior Learning</b> Do children understand the difference between paying respect and worshipping? <b>Input</b> How do you celebrate on New Year's Eve? Children to discuss. Explain how Songkran is celebrated in Thailand. Children to discuss how they compare to their New Year's Eve celebrations. • Why do you think water is so important for Buddhists celebrating Songkran? What ideas do washing with water represent? Do these activities remind you of rituals in other religions you have studied? Children to think, pair, share their ideas. Explain the significance of water and washing for Buddhists. • Explain that washing with water reminds Buddhists that they can cleanse themselves, or rid themselves of suffering by studying and practising the teachings of the Buddha. Briefly explain the concept of Nirvana and Parinirvana. • Explain that today we will be learning more about how rituals involving water relate to the teachings of the Buddha. <b>Activity</b> Parinirvana is a 'perfect world' that words cannot describe. Provide children with a choice of art materials to produce a piece of art work that depicts Parinirvana	Pictures of Songkran celebration in Thailand.  Sheets of blank paper.  Various art materials.	Show children pictures with three common offerings placed at Buddhist shrines. What is the significance of each of these offerings? How do they relate to the teachings of the Buddha? Children to discuss and share their ideas.

				as they imagine it. Children then write a brief description of the different ways water is used in rituals during Songkran.		
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