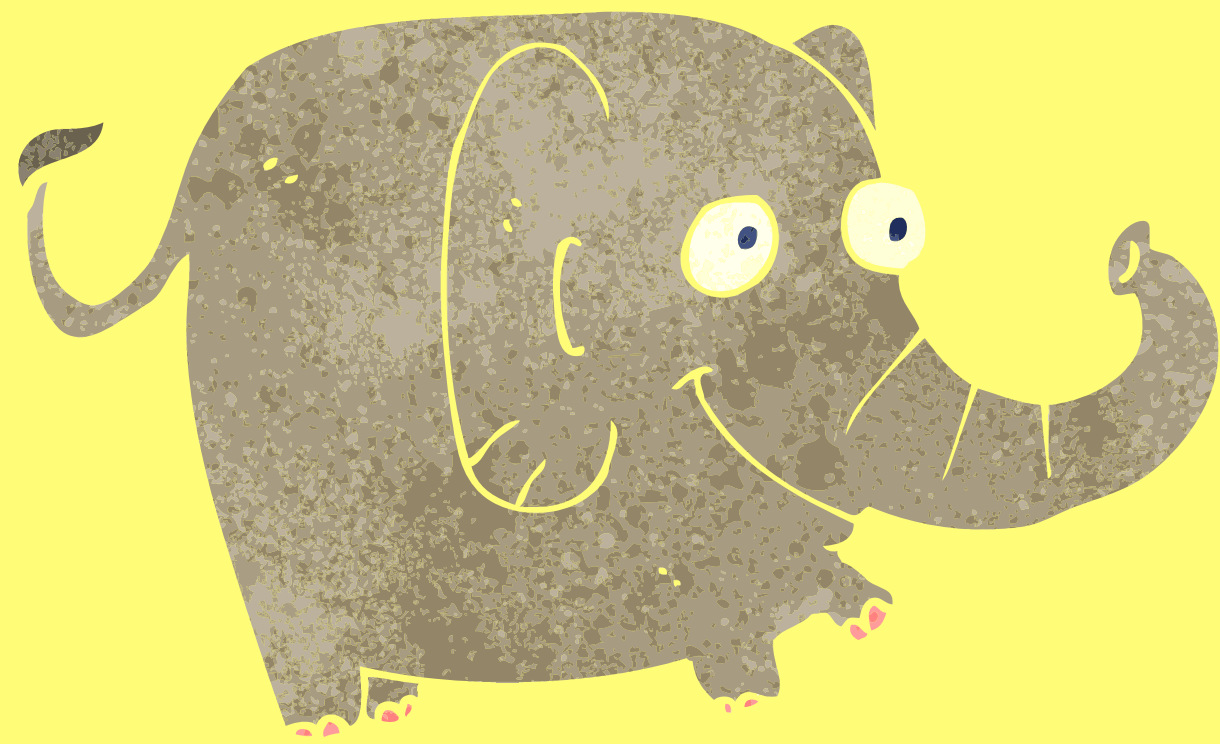


# **Buddhist Festivals:**

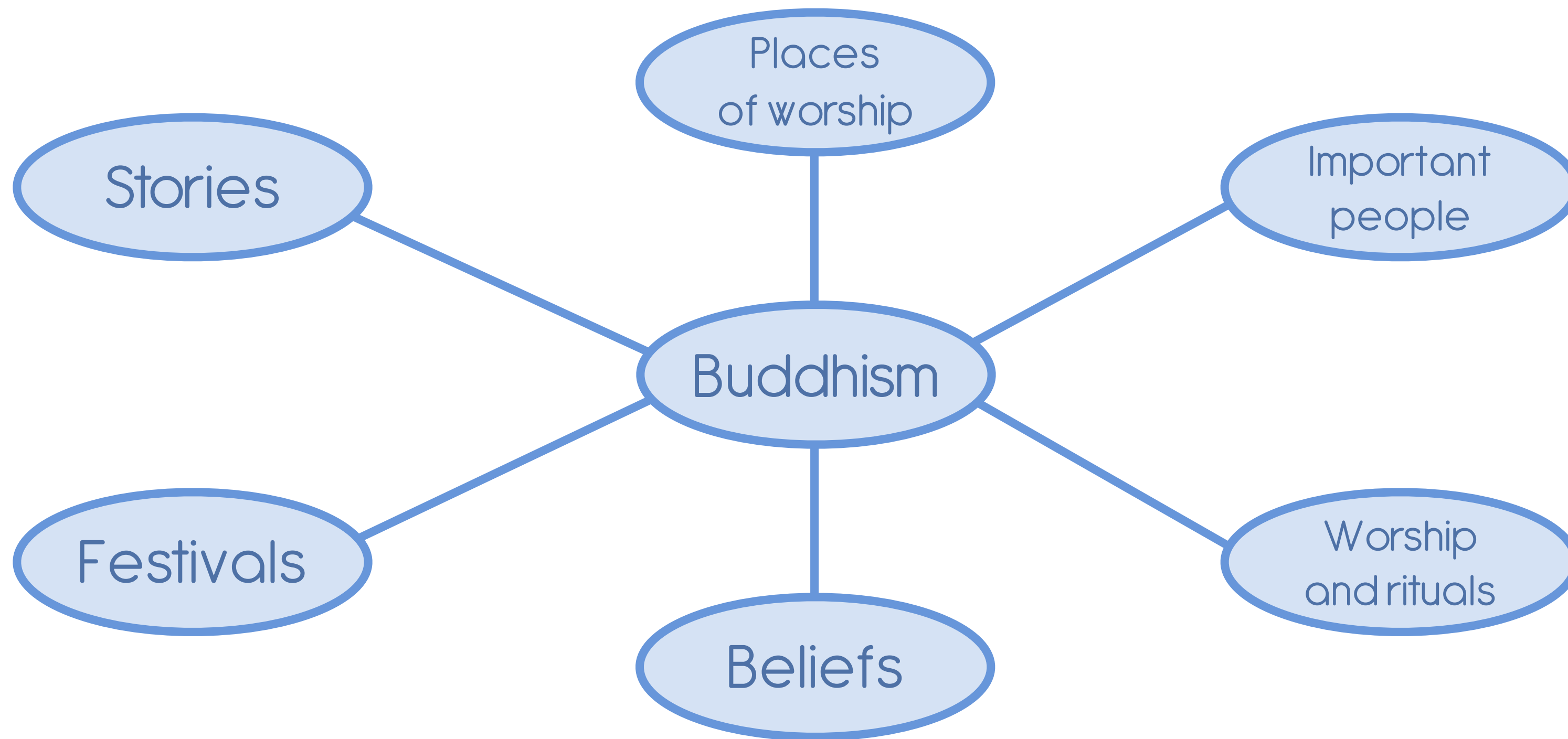
## Why is Buddhism special?

Learning Objective:

To gather, select and organise ideas about Buddhism.



What do you already know about Buddhism?



Draw a mind map like this, adding your ideas.

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Have you shared your mind map? Have you looked at other children's mind maps? Did they have any great ideas which you could add to your mind map? Do it now!



When you have finished adding ideas, write any questions about Buddhism that you would like to find answers to around your mind map.

Many Buddhists will have a shrine at home.

Buddhists read and study stories about the life of the Buddha.

Buddhists study the teachings of the Buddha.

Buddhists believe in karma and reincarnation.

Vesak is an important Buddhist festival. It happens every year.

The Dalai Lama is a very important teacher of Buddhism.

Buddhists do not believe in any one, all-powerful creator god.

Buddhists often meditate.

Buddhists give offerings and thank the Buddha in temples.

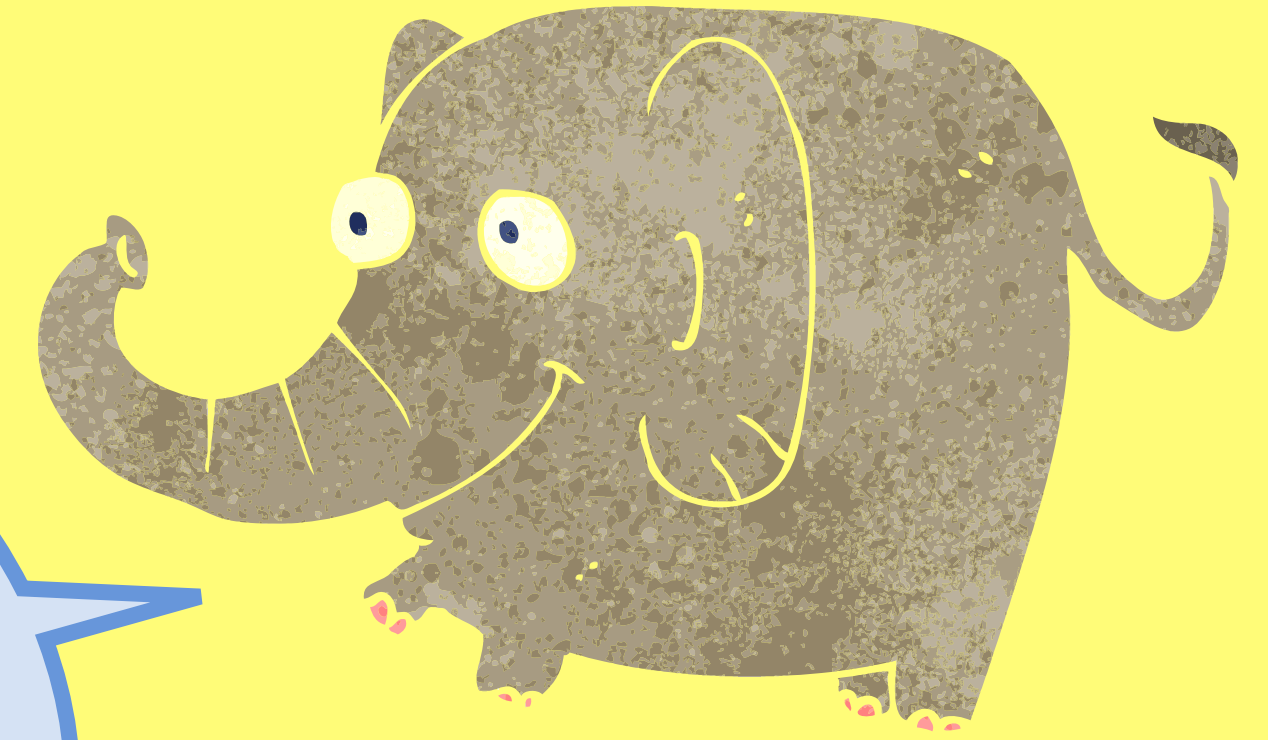
Did you think of any of these facts?  
Compare them with what you know about other religions. What's different?



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Unlike some other religions, Buddhists do not worship one all-powerful creator god, or **supreme deity**. This makes Buddhism quite different to Christianity or Islam, for example.

Let's find out about how this affects the ways in which Buddhists practise their religion...





The most significant figure in Buddhism is a man called **Siddhartha Gautama**. He was a prince who spent his life learning how to bring about an end to suffering in the world. One day, while meditating, he achieved '**enlightenment**' and became **the Buddha**. Buddhism is based on the teachings of the Buddha.



When Buddhists worship, they do not give thanks to a god or ask god for help. Instead, they pay respect to the Buddha, thanking him for his teachings. They may visit a temple to pray and to leave **offerings** at the feet of statues of the Buddha.



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Buddhists **meditate** to clear their minds, better understand the teachings of the Buddha and to become '**enlightened**'.



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Buddhists believe in **reincarnation**, or rebirth. This means that rather than going to heaven or paradise after death, as Christians and Muslims believe, they believe that they will be born again in the body of another living thing. Even among Buddhists, there are lots of different ideas about how this happens.



This symbol is called 'the endless knot'. It represents the ideas of rebirth and karma.

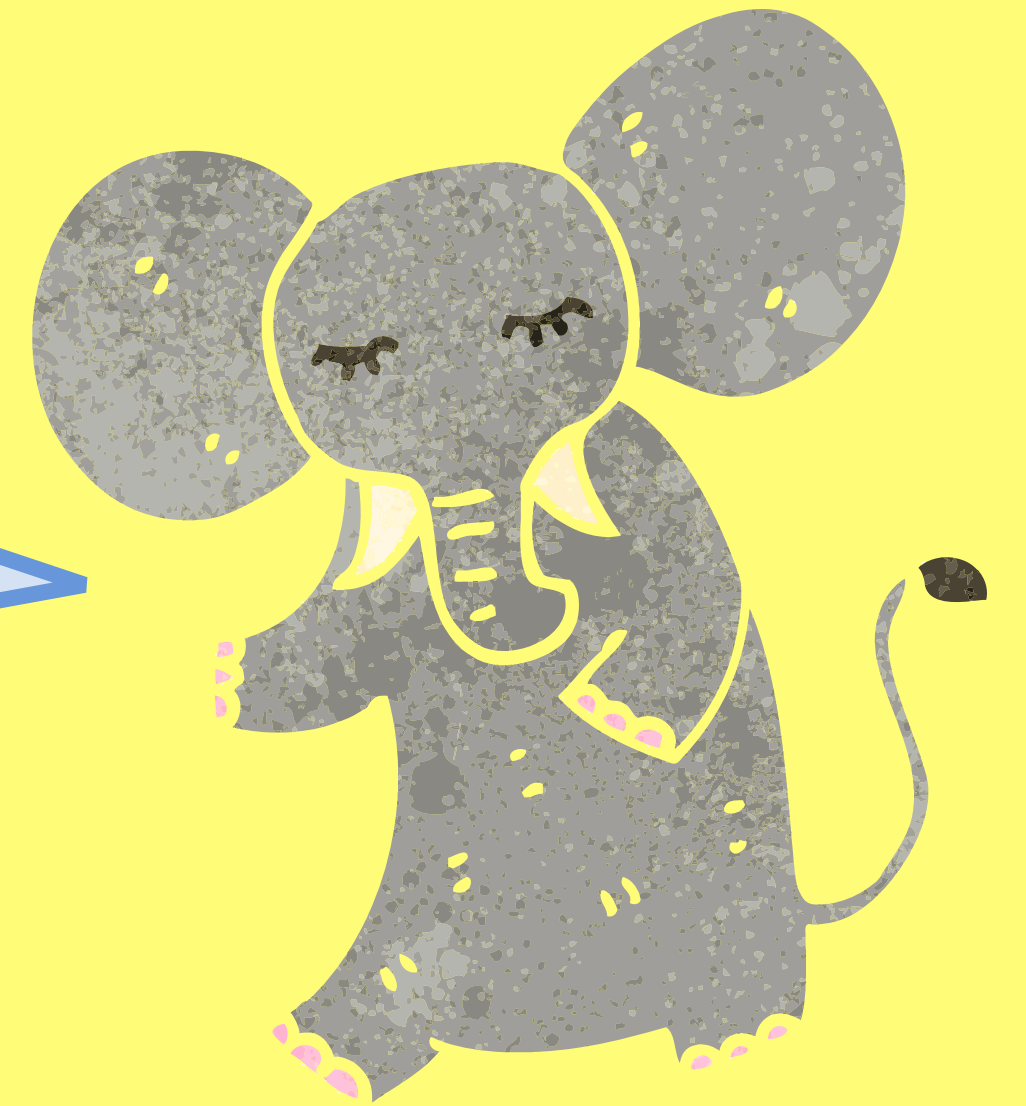


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The **yin yang** is often used to represent the idea of karma.



Buddhists also believe in **karma**. This means that there is a consequence for every thought or action. If someone has bad thoughts or does bad things, it will have a bad effect on them when they are reincarnated or reborn. If they have good thoughts and do good things, their next life will be a better one.

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Today we will be organising  
our ideas about Buddhism to show some  
ways in which it is 'special', or different from  
other religions.

