

Buddhist Festivals

Religious Education

Year 4

Lesson 2 of 5

Learning Objective		Resources
<p>Vesak To understand why Buddhists give offerings during Vesak.</p>		<p>Slides Worksheets 2A/2B/2C Buddha Story What Is Enlightenment? (FSD? activity only) Light Bulb Moment! (FSD? activity only)</p>
Teaching Input		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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? Show the slide explaining the significance of the story. 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. Explain that today we will be learning more about why offerings are given during Vesak. 		
Main Activity		
<p><u>Lower ability:</u></p> <p>On worksheet 2A, children are to draw a comic strip that tells the story of Siddhartha Gautama and the Ascetics. They should read each caption carefully before drawing a picture to show what is described.</p>	<p><u>Middle ability:</u></p> <p>On worksheet 2B, children are to choose the four most important statements from a list which tells the story of Siddhartha Gautama and the Ascetics. They should then copy these onto the Buddha Story sheet and illustrate them.</p>	<p><u>Higher ability:</u></p> <p>Children are to read the story of Siddhartha Gautama and the Ascetics on worksheet 2C. They should then choose four key moments to describe and illustrate on the Buddha Story sheet.</p>
Fancy something different...?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide pairs or small groups of children with the What Is Enlightenment? sheet (or display it on your IWB). Children are to read through the sheet and discuss the questions shown. Give children the Light Bulb Moment! sheet. First, they are to answer the questions on the top section of the sheet; these could be collected and bound to make a class book or used as part of a display. Secondly, children should cut off and complete the lower section of the sheet. This section could be stuck in diaries or kept somewhere safe to be referred to again at a later date. Have children managed to overcome their problem? How did they do it? 		
Plenary	Assessment Questions	
<p>Show the Plenary slide with 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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? 	