

Name: _____ Date: _____



Read the Ploughing Festival story cards and order them correctly. Answer the questions below.

Why did the king decide to hold the Ploughing Festival?

As he was watching the festival, what did Siddhartha notice?

Why did Siddhartha feel sad?

While meditating, Siddhartha realised that all living things suffer. What did that mean for him?

What did Siddhartha realise he must do?

Draw a picture of Siddhartha meditating under the Bodhi tree.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

The Buddha and the Ploughing Festival



When he was very young, Siddhartha's father, the king, held a festival to celebrate the start of the growing season. Siddhartha was carried to a shady spot by the field where the festival took place.

As he sat watching, Siddhartha noticed that the oxen pulling the ploughs were working very hard and suffering, while the people watching relaxed and enjoyed themselves.

Beyond the people watching, Siddhartha saw a lizard eating ants. A moment later, a bird swooped down and ate the lizard.

He was sad that, although he was happy and lived a life of luxury, those animals were suffering. He began to meditate...

While meditating, Siddhartha experienced his first moment of enlightenment. He realised that nothing in life is perfect. All living things suffer. This meant that even he, with his life of luxury, would eventually suffer too.

As he understood this, he also realised that he must spend his life searching for a way to overcome this suffering.



Can you write a blurb for the story of the Buddha and the Ploughing Festival?

Here's some top blurb-writing tips:

- Summarise the story - but don't give the ending away!
- Keep it snappy!
- Blurbs are short
- Engage the reader - why should they read the story?
- Use emotive words and language

[illegible]

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Siddhartha and the Swan



Siddhartha was walking in the woods with his cousin, a boy called Devadatta. Floating in a shady part of a small pond, the boys noticed a swan. Devadatta silently pulled out his bow and arrow and shot the bird.

Siddhartha was horrified. He ran to the pond and scooped up the injured swan. Carefully, the young prince removed the arrow and poured water on the creature's wounds.

“That bird belongs to me!” cried Devadatta, angrily.

"If you had killed the swan it would belong to you. As it is still alive, I shall look after it," replied Siddhartha, calmly.

Back at the palace, the boys asked a Sage (a wise elder) from the king's court to rule on who owned the swan.

"The swan belongs to whoever tries to save its life, not the person who tries to kill it," decreed the Sage.

Kind Siddhartha nursed the injured swan back to full health, then set it free.



Can you write a blurb for the story of the Buddha and the Ploughing Festival?

Here's some top blurb-writing tips:

- Summarise the story
 - but don't give the ending away!
- Keep it snappy!
 - Blurbs are short
- Engage the reader
 - why they should read the story?
- Use emotive words and language

[illegible]

As he sat watching, Siddhartha noticed that the oxen pulling the ploughs were working very hard and suffering, while the people watching relaxed and enjoyed themselves.

He was sad that, although he was happy and lived a life of luxury, those animals were suffering. He began to meditate...

While meditating, Siddhartha experienced his first moment of enlightenment. He realised that nothing in life is perfect. All living things suffer. This meant that even he, with his life of luxury, would eventually suffer too.

As he understood this, he also realised that he must spend his life searching for a way to overcome this suffering.

When he was very young, Siddhartha's father, the king, held a festival to celebrate the start of the growing season. Siddhartha was carried to a shady spot by the field where the festival took place.

Beyond the people watching, Siddhartha saw a lizard eating ants. A moment later, a bird swooped down and ate the lizard.



The Four Noble Truths

1

Dukkha

Suffering exists, and it is a part of life.

The Four Noble Truths

2

Samudaya

Suffering is caused by things like a desire for fame or wealth.

The Four Noble Truths

3

Nirodha

Suffering can be overcome and happiness can be attained.

The Four Noble Truths

4

Magga

To overcome suffering, Buddhists must follow the Noble Eightfold Path (rules for life taught by the Buddha).

How is the Ploughing Festival celebrated?

Everyone follows the oxen pulling the ploughs, walking in a long procession.

How is the Ploughing Festival celebrated?

Races and competitions are held to entertain people.

How is the Ploughing Festival celebrated?

After the procession, there are ceremonies where furrows are ploughed and rice is sown.

How is the Ploughing Festival celebrated?

Women and girls carry offerings of rice and flowers.

How is the Ploughing Festival celebrated?

Everyone gets dressed in special clothes - even the oxen pulling the plough are decorated with red flags and sashes!

How is the Ploughing Festival celebrated?

Sometimes, children are dressed in traditional costumes to look like royalty.

The Ploughing Festival

Your group task today is to prepare a **short performance** which tells people all about the Ploughing Festival.

- You must explain how the festival is celebrated
- You must share the story of the Buddha and the Ploughing Festival
- You must explain how the story and the festival remind Buddhists about the Four Noble Truths
- Everyone in the group must be a part of the performance

You could cut out some of the pictures and cards to show people.

You could look for books about Buddhism to help you.

You could draw pictures that show what is happening in the story.

You could act out parts of the festival or the story.

How will you make sure you work well as a group?

The Ploughing Festival

Your group task today is to prepare a **short performance** which tells people all about the Ploughing Festival.

- You must explain how the festival is celebrated
- You must share the story of the Buddha and the Ploughing Festival
- You must explain how the story and the festival remind Buddhists about the Four Noble Truths
- Everyone in the group must be a part of the performance

You could cut out some of the pictures and cards to show people.

You could look for books about Buddhism to help you.

You could draw pictures that show what is happening in the story.

You could act out parts of the festival or the story.

How will you make sure you work well as a group?