

FAMILIAL WORLDVIEW TRAITS

Buddhist worldviews



YOU
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KS1

Buddhist traditions are **non-theistic** (not believing in God) worldviews.

People with Buddhist worldviews usually find the Buddha's life, teachings and **enlightenment (Nirvana)** inspirational for living and try to follow his example.

Buddha was a prince called **Siddhartha Gautama** who lived in India about 2,600 years ago.

A '**Bodhisattva**' is a kind and compassionate teacher in Buddhism who wants to help others find **enlightenment** through their powers of love, wisdom and understanding. Buddha was a Bodhisattva before he was enlightened.

Siddhartha saw four sights that taught him about suffering (dukkha) in this life:

- A old man
- A sick person
- A dead body
- A holy man

The four sights caused him to go forth and begin the search that came to fulfilment six years later when he realised **Enlightenment** and became the **Buddha**. He is often shown in his enlightened state sitting under the **Bodhi tree**.

Those with Buddhist worldviews believe Siddhartha reached enlightenment (called 'Nirvana') and he became the **Buddha**.

KS2

Buddhism is an example of a **non-theistic** worldview.

Those with Buddhist worldviews **revere or venerate** (show respect and adoration for) the Buddha as a great teacher who discovered and showed them the way out of Suffering (dukkha). Those with Buddhist worldviews try to follow his teachings.

Buddhists hold the same core teachings but their beliefs and practices **diversified** over the centuries as they spread to different countries and **cultures**.

There are three main schools of Buddhism: Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana. Buddhism is like a great tree, growing from the one root with the main trunk giving way to three stems from which grow several smaller branches.

In the 3rd century BCE, after converting to Buddhism, **Emperor Ashoka** made pilgrimages to the important Buddhist sites and at some he had stone pillars set up to commemorate their importance. It is said he influenced the spread of Buddhism beyond India throughout Asia.

There are Four Noble Truths of Buddhism, the fourth of which is **The Noble Eightfold Path (magga, or The Middle Way)**. It is a means for those with Buddhist worldviews to try to live well (see diagram).

Those with Buddhist worldviews usually believe they can escape **samsara (rebirth)** by overcoming dukkha (suffering) through stopping clinging on to things. This is what eventually helps them achieve **Nirvana (enlightenment)**.

Those with Buddhist worldviews usually use meditation to help them move towards enlightenment.

KS3

