

Places of Worship

A task setting PowerPoint about the Buddhist temple for Key Stage 2.

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Buddhist Temples Around the World

Buddhist temples vary throughout the world. The Shwedagon Pagoda (or Golden Pagoda) is the holiest shrine in Burma. The high main stupa is completely covered in gold. A stupa is a stone structure built over what are thought to be relics of the Buddha.



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The Mahabodhi Temple



The Mahabodhi Temple is a Buddhist stupa in India.



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Tōdai-ji

Tōdai-ji is one of the most famous Buddhist temples in Japan.

It is home to one of the biggest Buddha statues in Japan and is the world's largest wooden building.



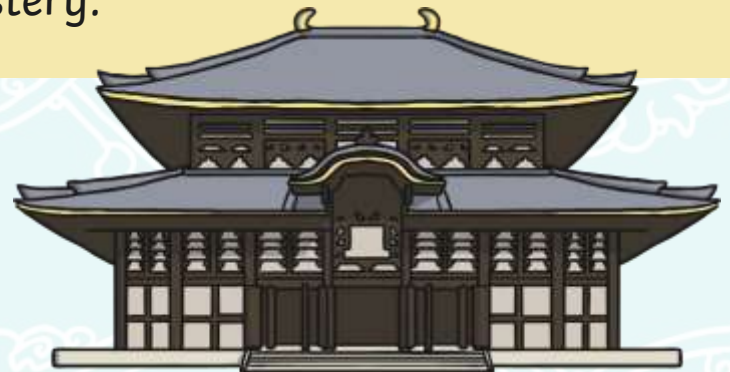
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Borobudur



Borobudur is the largest and most well known Buddhist temple in the world.

Located in Indonesia, it was abandoned for centuries and lay hidden. The reason why still remains a mystery.



Manjushri Kadampa Buddhist Temple






This is an international centre for Buddhism and temple for world peace located in Cumbria, UK.

It is home to the largest bronze statue of Buddha in the western world.

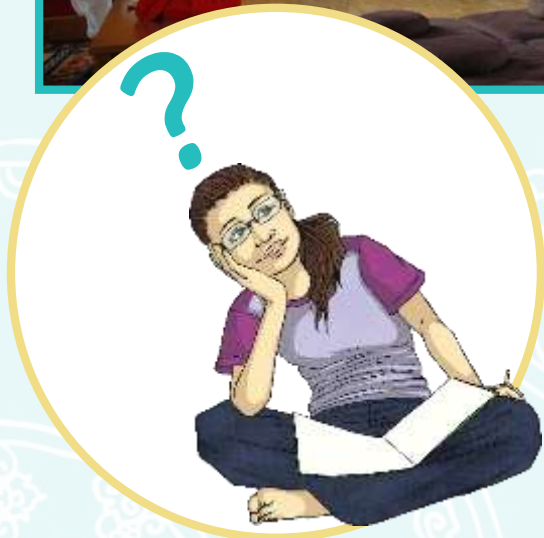


Buddhist Temples

All Buddhist temples contain an image or a statue of Buddha. Buddhist temples are designed to symbolise the five elements.

Earth	Wisdom	Fire	Air	Water
<p>The Earth is represented by the square base of the temple.</p>	<p>Wisdom is symbolised by the pinnacle at the very top.</p>	<p>The spire represents fire.</p>	<p>The crescent of a temple represents air.</p>	<p>The dome represents water.</p>
				

Do All Temples Look the Same Inside?



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Important Features of a Buddhist Temple



Buddha

All Buddhist temples contain an image or statue of Buddha.



Lectern

From here, the head monk may give a talk to the worshippers.



Courtyard or Meditation Area

A temple may have a silent area for meditation.



Wheel of Life

This is the Buddhist symbol. You might see this if you are ever visiting a Buddhist temple.

Why do People go to a Buddhist Temple?



People go to the temple to worship the image of Buddha.
Worshippers usually sit on the floor barefoot.

Worshippers give offerings to Buddha such as flowers or candles.
Worship is led by monks and is mostly meditation and chanting.



Why Do People Go to a Buddhist Temple?

Incense (a nice smelling fragrance) is used during worship to remind everyone that Buddha is all around them.



Many Buddhists believe that worshipping together with other Buddhists helps them to understand their religion better and to feel part of a faith family. Being in the temple also helps Buddhists to get better at meditation which is a way of being calm and still.

Why Do People Go to a Buddhist Temple?



Buddhists also attend temple for special occasions such as weddings and religious festival days.

Weddings

Buddhist weddings can take place in the temple or in the bride's home. Prayers are recited then the bride says goodbye to her family and prays to her ancestors.



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Why Do People Go to a Buddhist Temple?

Buddhists believe their lives are a cycle of death and re-birth until they reach Nirvana. Nirvana is thought to be the end of the cycle and is achieved only when all want is gone and true happiness is found.



Nirvana Day

This is a special annual festival which remembers the death of the Buddha, when he reached Nirvana. Buddhists spend Nirvana Day meditating and visiting their temple.

Wesak

This is the most important day in the Buddhist calendar as it celebrates Buddha's birthday. Buddhists visit their local temple for services and teaching, taking offerings of flowers, candles and food.

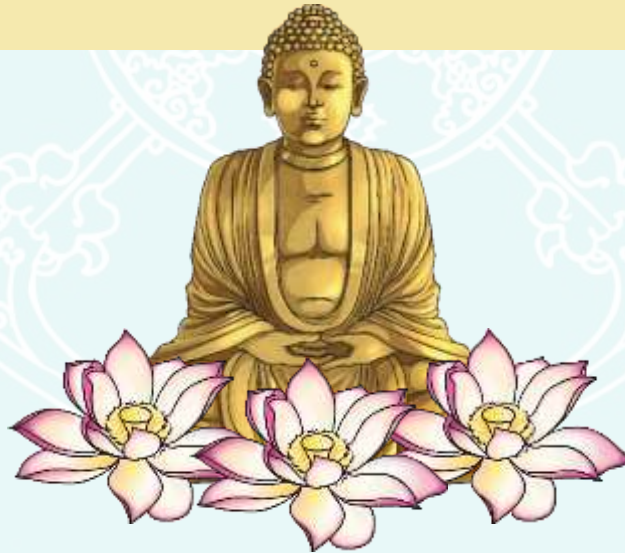


Buddhist Worship at Home

Buddhists can worship both at the temple and at home.

In a Buddhist home, there will be one room or area used as a shrine with a statue of Buddha, incense and candles.

Having a shrine in the home is an opportunity for a Buddhist to worship daily.



Showing Respect

No talking in the shrine room.

Wear appropriate clothing and no shoes to be worn inside.

Special books should be kept off the floor.

Sit with your legs crossed on the floor, do not straighten out your legs (this is a sign of disrespect, so is lying down).

Bow to the statue of Buddha.

Make offerings.



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