

Buddhist Festivals : RE : Year 4

	Learning Objective	Overview	Assessment Questions	Resources
Lesson 1	Why is Buddhism special? To gather, select and organise ideas about Buddhism.	Children will recap prior knowledge of Buddhism, then learn more about its core principles. They will then either collect their own ideas and add other information to mind maps, or discuss similarities and differences between the principles of Buddhism and those of other religions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can children organise their ideas to show what they already know about Buddhism? • Do children understand that there is no 'supreme deity' in Buddhism? • Can children explain some ways in which Buddhism differs from other religions? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides • Buddhism Fact Cards
Lesson 2	Vesak To understand why Buddhists give offerings during Vesak.	Children will read a story about Siddhartha Gautama and consider how it relates to some of the rituals and celebrations during Vesak. They may then either retell the story in their own words, or describe their own moments of 'enlightenment'.	<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? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides • Worksheets 2A/2B/2C • Buddha Story • What Is Enlightenment? (FSD? activity only) • Light Bulb Moment! (FSD? activity only)
Lesson 3	The Ploughing Festival To understand how and why significant moments in the life of the Buddha are celebrated.	Children will learn about a Buddhist festival principally celebrated in Thailand. They will read another story about the life of the Buddha, then determine why this moment in his life is celebrated, and in what ways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do children know some ways in which Buddhists celebrate during the Ploughing Festival? • Do children understand why this moment in the Buddha's life is celebrated? • Can children explain some ways in which the story reminds Buddhists about the teachings of the Buddha? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides • Worksheets 3A/3B/3C • Ploughing Festival Resources (FSD? activity only)
Lesson 4	Loy Krathong To understand how and why Buddhists pay respect to the Buddha.	Through studying the festival of Loy Krathong, children will learn about many of the typical rituals associated with Buddhist worship. They will give reasons why certain objects are significant for Buddhists, then either recreate aspects of the festival or describe it in their own words.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can children describe some ways in which Loy Krathong is celebrated? • Do children understand the significance of giving offerings of flowers and lighting candles? • Do children understand the difference between paying respect and worshipping? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides • Worksheets 4A/4B/4C • Make A Krathong (FSD? activity only)
Lesson 5	Songkran To know how activities during the festival relate to the teachings of the Buddha.	Children will suggest reasons why water is significant for Buddhists during this festival particularly, then either learn more about the concept of parinirvana, or recreate aspects of the Songkran festival.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can children compare their own New Year's Eve celebrations to those of Buddhists in Thailand during Songkran? • Do children understand the significance of the use of water in Buddhist rituals? • Can children explain how the use of water in Buddhist rituals relates to the teachings of the Buddha? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides • Worksheets 5A/5B • Songkran Activity (FSD? activity only) • What have you learned? (FSD? activity only)