

# BUDDHISM



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## Content and skills

This chapter addresses the questions, 'Who was the Buddha and what did he teach?' and 'How do Buddhists express their beliefs through symbols, and what do the symbols mean?'

The ideas, discussions and activities in this chapter consider the life of the Buddha; how his enlightenment is interpreted through symbolism in the Buddhārūpa or image of the Buddha; and how his teaching is expressed through the Five Precepts and the Noble Eightfold Path. The children are encouraged to consider the teachings of the Buddha, the implications of these teachings for Buddhists today and to reflect on the relevance for their own lives.

The Buddha and his teaching will be an area for learning at Key Stage 2 in many, although not all, LEA Agreed Syllabuses for RE and these areas are reflected in themes in the non-statutory framework for Religious Education, specifically through the themes of 'inspirational people', 'teachings and authority' and 'symbols and religious expression'.

By completing the work in this chapter, the children will develop their religious vocabulary and their ability to describe beliefs and teachings; they will develop their ability to make links between the teachings of different religions and to suggest meanings for different types of religious symbolism and expression.

The Resource Gallery on the CD-ROM for this chapter, together with the teachers' notes and photocopiable pages, support teaching and learning about Buddhism. The teachers' notes contain background information about the resources and include ways of using them as a whole class, for group work or as individuals. Some of the activities link with other areas of the curriculum, such as literacy and art and design. Wherever possible, the activities encourage the children to ask questions and develop an enquiring approach to their learning.

## Resources on the CD-ROM

The resources include images of the Buddha, the celebration of Buddhist festivals and Buddhist symbols. There is also a video of a Buddhist explaining how Buddhists interpret and practise the Five Precepts and activity sheets on the life of the Buddha and the Noble Eightfold Path. These resources serve to develop the children's understanding of Buddhism, and what it means to be a Buddhist.

## Photocopiable pages

The photocopiable pages in the book are also provided in PDF format on the CD-ROM and can be printed from there. They include:

- ▶ word cards containing essential vocabulary for the unit
- ▶ activity sheets that explore the life of the Buddha
- ▶ an activity sheet on what it means to practise the Noble Eightfold Path
- ▶ an activity sheet showing mudras and symbols in Buddhism
- ▶ an activity sheet describing a Buddhist shrine.



## NOTES ON THE CD-ROM RESOURCES

### Small Buddha statue



The picture shows a small Buddhārūpa or Buddha image, with the Buddha seated in the lotus position on a lotus flower base. The lotus flower grows from roots submerged in mud, up through the clear waters to emerge as a beautiful bloom on the surface. The lotus is an analogy for human development, from beginnings based in ignorance and concern with

