

The Life of the Buddha

Cut out and arrange the statements in the correct order to create an account of Siddharta Gautama's life.



The Buddha sat under a Bodhi tree and meditated. During this time he saw all of his past lives and discovered the truth to all things. He had become Enlightened.

His father wanted him to be a great leader so kept him inside the palace where all of his needs were catered for.

He travelled the land teaching, those who followed his teaching were known as the Sangha.

He shaved his hair, swapped his robe and left his wife and child behind as he set off on his path for Enlightenment.

He left the palace on four separate occasions. Each time he saw something that made him question all he thought he knew about life.

He lived as an ascetic in the forest surviving on a grain of rice.

Before the Buddha was born his mother had a dream that a white elephant entered her womb. She sought the wisdom of a seer named Asita to find out what this meant.

He died of food poisoning. Before he died he told his followers to "be a lamp unto yourselves".

His body was cremated and his ashes scattered in various stupas around the country.

He saw an old man, a sick man and a dead corpse being carried in a funeral procession.

Asita interpreted the dream explaining that the Prince would grow up to be either a great leader and warrior or a holy man.

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He saw a holy man who looked at ease despite the suffering and pain surrounding him. Siddhartha decided that he too would follow this path and set out on his quest for enlightenment.

He had an unusual birth, walking 7 steps immediately. As he took each step a lotus flower appeared and he spoke the words; "this is my last incarnation".

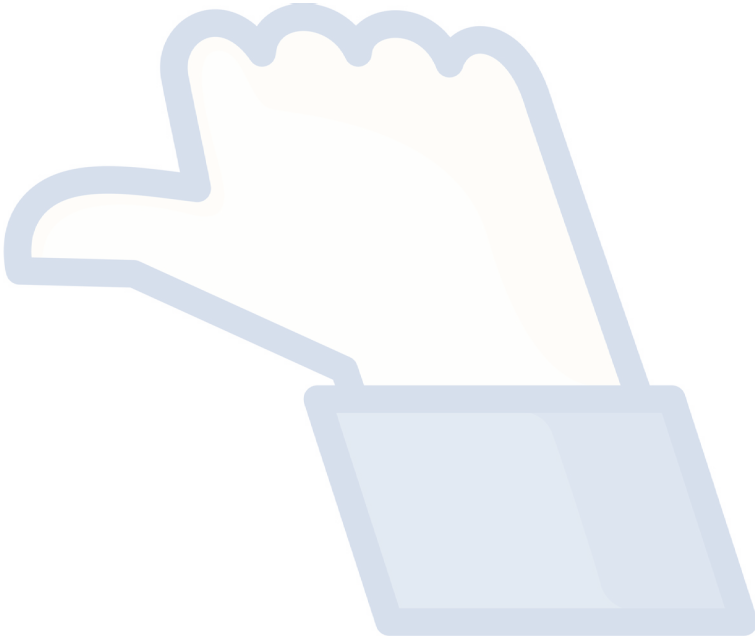
Once he had become Enlightened he set about teaching. His first sermon was delivered at the Deer Park.

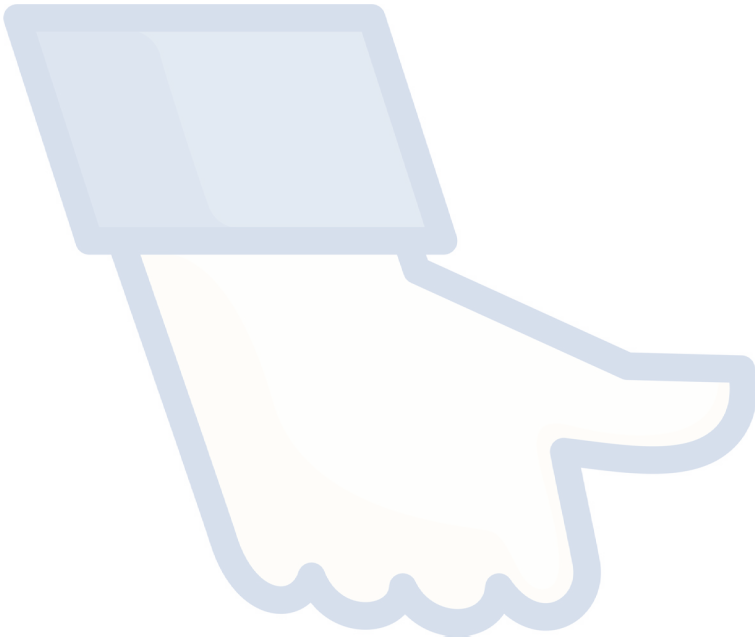
Despite having a life of great luxury he was curious about the world outside.

Extension Tasks:

1. What do you think the quote "be a lamp unto yourselves" means? Explain your response.
2. Read through the other account of the Life of the Buddha found on the Eduqas resource site – make a note of the similarities and differences between the two accounts of his life. Use the sheet below to help you.
3. Some may argue that Siddhartha leaving his family was a selfish act. Discuss the reasons for and against this view and complete the table attached to this pack.
4. Explain why his mother's dream is of significance to a religious believer and has been included in this account of his life.
5. What do the details of his childhood and his birth tell a religious believer about him and his life?

'Siddhartha leaving his wife and child was a selfish act.'

<p>Agree (reasons pilgrimage should be a priority)</p>	
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<p>Disagree (reasons pilgrimage should be a priority)</p>	
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The similarities and differences between the two accounts of the life of the Buddha.

