



Wood Green School

Summer Preparation Task

Religious Studies - Buddhism

Purpose of task:

To explore the life of Siddhartha Gautama, known as the Buddha after his enlightenment

Task:

'The Life of Siddhartha Gautama'

After reading: 'The Life of Siddhartha Gautama', complete the following:

1. **Make a timeline of the Buddha's life – include the key points of his conception, birth and early life. Include the reason he was kept in the Palace and the Four Sights – (those people who Siddhartha saw when he went out of the Palace that led to his departure). Then you need the experiences that led to his enlightenment, what he did after that and then finally the circumstances and location of his death**
2. Now answer the following questions in full sentences based on your reading:
 - a) What was unusual about Siddhartha's birth?
 - b) Why did King Shuddodana try to keep his son inside the Palace? Do you think that this could have worked?
 - c) What was so important about Siddhartha's journey outside the Palace and the people that he saw?
 - d) Why do you think that this had such a profound effect on the young Siddhartha and led him to leave his wife and baby son?
 - e) Do you think that his departure was selfish, what about his wife and baby son?
 - f) What do you think Siddhartha learnt during the years of asceticism? *If you are not sure what asceticism means, then look it up to be sure*
 - g) After his enlightenment, why did the Buddha not want to teach what he had learnt?
 - h) What did the Buddha teach at the Deer Park Sermon?
 - i) What is the sangha?
 - j) What do you think the last words of the Buddha meant?

Recommended resources:

Article:

'The Life of Siddhartha Gautama'

This can be found in the Summer Tasks page on the school website under 'Religious Studies, Buddhism task'

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