

Summer 2 Week 10 RE

Lesson 2

Can I understand the importance of a temple to a Buddhist?

Recap - What is a place of worship?

A **place of worship** is a building or space where people go to practice and learn about their faith.

Today, we are going to look at Buddhism and their place of worship - a temple.

A Buddhist place of worship is a **temple**. Just like churches, mosques and synagogues, not all temples around the world look the same...

Buddhist temples vary throughout the world. The Shwedagon Pagoda (or Golden Pagoda) is the holiest shrine in Burma.





The Mahabodhi Temple in India.



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



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



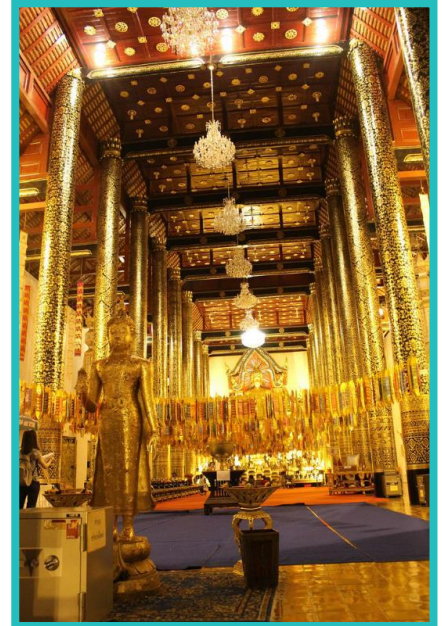
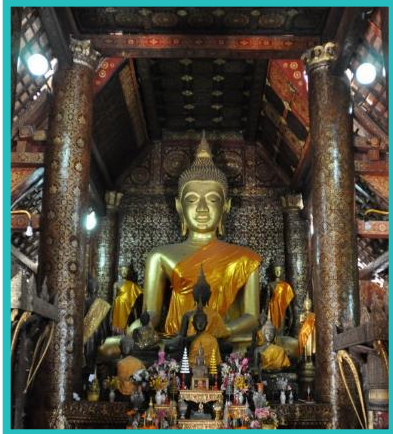
This is an international centre for Buddhism and temple for world peace located in Cumbria, UK.

All Buddhist temples contain an image or a statue of Buddha.

While the temples all look different they are designed to symbolise the five elements.

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

Buddhist temples all look different on the outside. They also all look different on the inside. Much like they have features for their outside designs, all temples contain the same features inside.



Important features of a Buddhist temple.

Lectern

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



Buddha

All Buddhist temples contain an image or statue of Buddha.



Important features of a Buddhist temple.

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.
- Incense (a nice smelling fragrance) is used during worship to remind everyone that Buddha is all around them.
- Buddhists also attend temple for special occasions such as weddings and religious festival days.

Why do people go to a Buddhist temple?

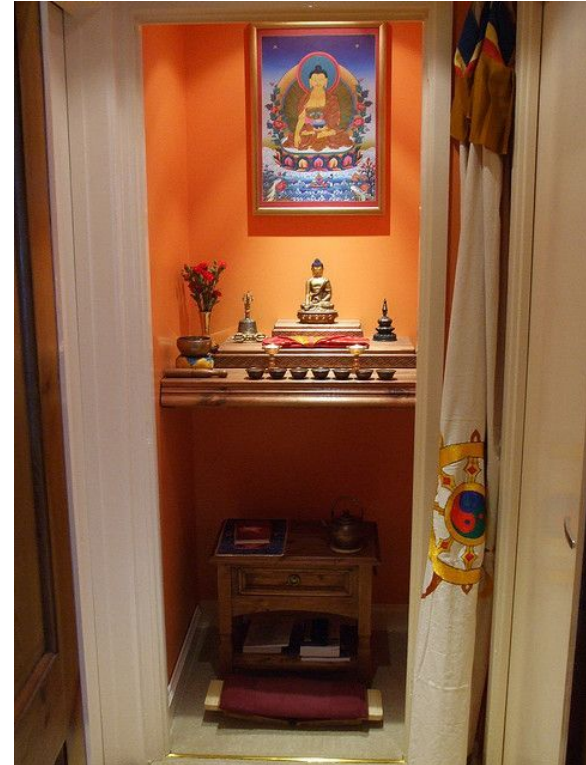
Many Buddhists believe that worshipping together with other Buddhists helps them to understand their religion better and to feel part of a faith family.



Being in the temple also helps Buddhists to get better at meditation which is a way of being calm and still.

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.



The following are ways to show respect in a Buddhist temple. Similar to the rules of the gurdwara for Sikhs.

- 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.

Your task today is to draw a Buddhist temple. Remember the five elements that are symbolised by the building of the temple.

There is a support sheet with some examples to help you.