

BUDDHA

*'He who possesses character and discrimination, who is just, speaks the truth, and does what is his own business, him the world will hold dear.'*²⁸

OUTCOME

Students reflect on the Five Promises of Buddhism and create their own promises.

RESOURCES

- CD and words to prayer 'O God, Guide Me' and song 'Education'
- Felt board of progressive revelation of religion on display in room
- **6 – 8 yrs:** Copies of 'Siddhartha and the Wounded Swan' Black Line Master 1
- Glue and scissors
- **9 – 12 yrs:** Copies of Five Buddhist Promises Black Line Master 2a
- Copies of students' promises Black Line Master 2b
- Scissors

N.B. Black Line Masters 2a & 2b should be back to back on the same piece of paper

LEARNING EXPERIENCES

- 1. ALL AGES: SING PRAYER AND SONG**
- 2. EXPLAIN THAT THE FOLLOWERS OF BUDDHA MAKE FIVE PROMISES** for right living. Have the students guess what some of these might be.

3. AGES 6 – 8 yrs:

- a) Read the story of **'The Wounded Swan'**

One day Prince Siddhartha was walking in the woods when a swan fell from the sky at His feet. There was an arrow stuck in the swan's wings, so He gently pulled it out, and began to care for the bird.

Suddenly Buddha's bad-tempered cousin, Devadatta, rushed up to him, carrying a bow and arrow. *"I shot the swan,"* he shouted, *"Give it back at once!"*

Siddhartha refused. He knew His cousin would probably kill the bird. They decided to go to the wise judge who would know what to do. The judge listened to what each of the boys had to say. He thought the matter over. Then he said, *"It is better to give life than to take it. The swan must therefore be yours, Siddhartha."*

So Siddhartha looked after it, and when it was better, he let it go free.

- b) Black Line Master 4: 'The Wounded Swan'. Ask, 'What happened in the beginning of the story and what happened at the end?' Ask, 'What have we learned from the story?' 'What would a promise be that would fit in with this story?' e.g. I promise to be kind to animals. The Buddha's promise is "I promise not to hurt or injure any living thing."


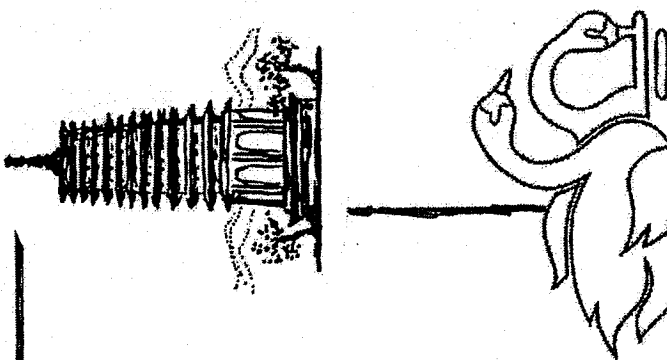
- c) Show students how to complete the activity. Explain that we must not draw a Divine Educator. Help them think of other creative ways to draw the story.
- d) Students cut out and rearrange the phrases into the correct order to make the promise and glue it below the pictures.

AGES 9-12yrs:

- a) Give students the Black Line Master and ask them to come up with 5 promises of their own for right living and write them on the work sheet. Suggest that they discuss these with their neighbour and perhaps come up with something together.
- b) Give them a warning when time is nearly up for this exercise.
- c) Have some of them share their promises with the rest of the class.
- d) Give out Black Line Master 2a and have someone read the Five Promises. How do they all compare with the promises the students have made?

SIDDARTHA AND THE WOUNDED SWAN

Draw the beginning, middle and the end of the story in here.

BEGINNING	MIDDLE	END
		

cut out and paste this sentence in the right order here.

or injure

I promise

any living thing

not to hurt