

Buddhism - Values for living

1. As the pupils enter

Have the webpage open:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/assemblies-buddhism-values-for-living/zjs6qfr>

Play the music and display the picture of a swan:

http://teach.files.bbc.co.uk/schoolradio/assemblies/images/siddhartha_and_the_swan.jpg

2. Introduction

Ask the children to listen to the music and imagine the swan as they settle. When everyone is ready, begin with the quiz: how many animals can the children name in 1 minute?

Ask the children to say what the values are promoted within your school and why the children think those values are important. Connect the idea 'values' to living life in a particular way - perhaps 'wisely' or 'always caring for others'. Connect this to Buddhism and the values that shape the lives of Buddhists.

Then: *We're going to watch a video now - it includes two stories that are special to followers of Buddhism around the world. As you watch think carefully about what we can learn from the stories...what they tell us about how we should try to live our lives...*

3. Play the video

Click on the 'Play video' button to load the video page. The video should play automatically. Display the video full-size using the toolbar buttons. The duration is 4' 08". The final words are: '...and the bamboo forest were protected forever.'

4 & 5. Time to talk

Use the story questions to help children identify some of the values that are important to Buddhists. Then ask children to suggest words that they would use to describe Siddhartha and the Monkey King and link them to your school values.

6. Time to sing

An opportunity to sing your chosen song.

Play video



7. Opportunity to reflect

We've heard today about some of the values shared by Buddhists all over the world - including caring for all living things...

We've shared stories that are important to Buddhists...

We've heard how Siddhartha cared for the injured swan, standing up to his mean cousin...

We've also heard how the Monkey King bravely risked his own life to save the monkeys...

And taught the human king a lesson about being a good leader...

I wonder what we might learn from these stories...and how they might help us to live better lives..?

What might we do today to show that we are caring for all living things, as Buddhists try to do..?

8. Opportunity for prayer

Dear God.

Thank you for the wonderful world that we all live in. Thank you for what we have learned today from our stories. Help us, like all Buddhists, to care for all living things.

Amen.