

Buddhism

Religious Buildings



Learning Target: That Buddhist temples often contain symbols of Fire, Air, Earth, Water & Wisdom.



Buddhism was started by **Prince Siddartha** in the region between the **North of India and just south of China**.

Buddhists **don't actually believe in a all knowing/ all seeing God**.

Instead they meditate on the teachings of the Buddha and try to be the best person they can be.

Pali and Sanskrit are the languages that most of the holy writings are written in.

Buddhism teaches that **suffering and unhappiness are caused by greed and selfishness**.

But this can be overcome by following the **Noble 8 fold path** as laid down by the Buddha, these are:-

Right Understanding, Right Attitude, Right Speech, Right Actions, Right Livelihood, Right Effort, Right Mindfulness and Right Concentration.



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Buddhist Temple Designs



A Buddhist temple is known as a Vihara and contains rooms for the monks to stay in.

Temples are used for ritual worship and meditation, festival, also centres of education.

All temples will contain a shrine to the Buddha.
Buddhist worshippers will take off their shoes when they enter the Vihara.

The monks will be seated slightly higher than the ordinary worshippers or visitors but lower than the statue of the Buddha.

Temples are often built close to water and inside on the walls will have scenes painted from the life of the Buddha.



Home and Temple

Buddhist worship

Buddhists can **worship both at home or at a temple.**

It is not considered essential to go to a temple to worship with others.

At home

Buddhists will often set aside a room or a part of a **room as a shrine.**

There will be a **statue of Buddha**, candles, and an incense burner.

Temples

Buddhist temples come in many shapes.

Perhaps the best known are the **pagodas** of China and Japan.

Another typical Buddhist building is the **Stupa**, which is a stone structure built over what are thought to be **relics of the Buddha**, or over copies of the Buddha's teachings.

Buddhist temples are designed to symbolise the five elements:

• **Fire**



• **Air**



• **Earth**, symbolised by the square base



• **Water**



• **Wisdom**, symbolised by the pinnacle at the top



Statue of Buddha - All Buddhist temples contain his image.



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Water

Fire

Space

Air

Earth



These Pogodas are often built by the Vihara to represent the five elements.



GORINTO - Five-Element Pagoda
Myohonji Temple in Kamakura
Nichiren Sect Temple



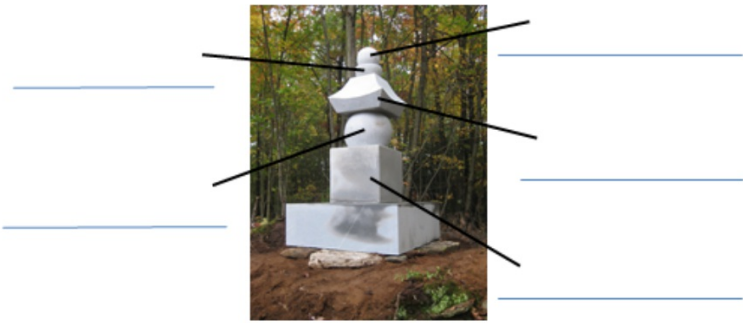


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- Fire
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- Earth, symbolised by the square base
- Water
- Wisdom, symbolised by the pinnacle at the top.

Status of Buddha - All Buddhist temples contain his image.

Label the 5 elements in the correct order.



Fire Air Water Earth Wisdom