

What do Buddhists Believe about suffering?

To reflect the fact that Britain is increasingly a multi cultural/multi faith society, the government is considering declaring a bank holiday to celebrate the life of a significant religious figure from a faith other than Christianity. It has been suggested that this day be dedicated to the life



of the Buddha because of his contribution to our thinking about suffering. You are to write an email to the Secretary of State for social cohesion arguing whether this day should be dedicated to The Buddha.

In groups do the Pyramid activity
Why is the Buddha important to help

you decide on your best arguments.

On your own use these best arguments as a starting point for composing your email.

In your email address the following questions:-

- Why the Buddha is important to Buddhists
- What non-Buddhists can learn from a day celebrating the Buddha's teachings (*hint: think about issues of suffering today and how the Buddha's teachings help people come to terms with this*)
- Whether you support this idea or not.



You are not quite sure you have the email right so place it in the drafts box. Ask your colleagues in the class to peer assess your email according to the following levels.

Then make any changes you would like, then email it to the secretary of state for social cohesion who by chance happens to have the same email address as your RE teacher.

Level 3: You can:-

- Describe the key features of the Buddha's teachings
- Begin to identify the impact of the Buddha's teachings on his followers lives
- Give your opinion whether we should have a day celebrating the life of the Buddha

Level 4: You can:-

- Describe and show understanding of the Buddha's teaching
- Describe the impact of the Buddha's teachings on peoples lives (Buddhist and non-Buddhist)
- Express your own views on whether we need to have a day celebrating the life of the Buddha.

Level 5: You can

- explain the importance of the Buddha's teachings
- explain the impact of the Buddha's teachings on individuals and communities (Buddhist and non-Buddhist)
- express your view on how relevant the Buddha's teachings are to life in Britain today

Level 6: You can

- give an informed account using reasoned argument to explain the importance of the Buddha's teachings
- Explain why the impact of the Buddha's teachings varies between individuals, communities and societies.
- Express insights into your own and others views on the value of having a day to consider questions of suffering.