

Buddhist Education in Primary Schools - Lesson Plan

Please complete this section before proceeding to the Lesson Plan page.

1. **Theme:** eg. *Life of the Buddha.*
2. **Topic:** eg. *Birth & Childhood.*
3. **Modern Interpretation:** eg. *The Buddha was an ordinary person.
Everyone experiences birth & death.*
4. **Age Group:** *Preps - Gde. 2.* 5. **Date:** *10th August, 2004.*
6. **School:** *Patchewallock Primary School.*

1. I have chosen this lesson for the children because *the Buddha was an historical figure who gave us teachings to help people live more happily and in harmony.*
2. The most important questions or values to be addressed by this lesson are
 - *The Buddha (the Awakened One) was an ordinary person who became enlightened and showed the world through his teachings that we could do the same.*
 - *His birth was special and had the marks of a special person.*
3. The important aims of this lesson are:
 - *For the chn. to understand that the Buddha was an ordinary person*
 - *That his birth was special & during his childhood he showed some special qualities. (eg. Meditating under the Rose-Apple tree.)*
4. The most important outcomes of this lesson for the children will be:
 - *Understanding about the existence, birth & childhood of the Buddha*
5. I will relate this topic to the childrens' present day experience by:
 - *Asking them about stories about their own birth.*
 - *Asking them if they know any special people.*
 - *Raising the possibility that young children sometimes have spiritual experiences & that we must be very sensitive about this.*

Lesson Plan

(Please complete aims and objectives on Page 1 before planning the lesson.)

What is the teacher doing?	What are the students doing?	Time allow.	Resources needed for this activity.
<p>1. Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Welcomes chn. * Puts up posters/Buddha rupa. * Roll Call. * Settles chn. on mat for "Circle Time." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Entering the room. * Speaking to tchr. * Adjusting to new space & new activity. * Settling on to the mat. 	5 mins.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Student roll. * Posters of Buddha or others relevant to the lesson. OR Buddha rupa. * Cushions for meditation.
<p>2. Prayer/ Meditation: "Circle Time"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Could use the suggested opening prayer. * Lead the chn. in a short meditation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Sitting on cushions on the mat. * Reading/reciting the prayer. * Following the tchr's meditation guidance. 	5 mins.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * laminated prayer sheets. * A guided meditation.
<p>3. Focus for new activity &/or Recap:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Remind chn. of last week's lesson. Ask a few qns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Chn. respond orally. 	3 mins.	
<p>4. Story-time:</p> <p>Steps to follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Introduce the story or topic. Eg. what do the chn. know already about this topic? Have they heard of the Buddha? * Introduce possible new words & concepts. Eg. Have you got a baby brother or sister at home? * Read the story. * Check for comprehension. <p>Follow-up Qns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Have the chn. understood the story? * Sequence of events? * Vocabulary? * Values in the story? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Chn. listen as teacher reads or tells the story. * Chn. answer the questions orally. 	10 mins.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Any suitable aids. Eg. colourful pictures, relevant objects etc. * Text for the story. <p>Suggested Text: "Buddhist Studies for Primary Students". BDEA. Sydney. Available in CD-Rom or directly off the net. (www.buddhanet.net go to Buddhist Studies & follow cues.) <i>Unit 1: Who Was the Buddha?</i></p> <p>Supplementary Texts: Beautiful illustrations but text is too advanced. (1) "Prince Siddhartha". (2) "Life of Sakyamuni – in drawings."</p>

<p>5. Relevance Today:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Do they know any stories about their own births? Brothers & sisters? * Do they know any special people? * Have they ever had any special experiences? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Chn. respond to tchrs. qns. 	<p>3-4 mins.</p>	
<p>6. Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Tchr. Introduces activity. Eg. Colouring-in. * A song * Dot-to-dot. * Making a card etc. etc.. <p>*Tchr. Is moving around the chn. giving out resources, helping them get started.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Chn. are ACTIVE. They move off the mat, to the tables. Talk and movement. 	<p>10 mins.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Worksheet: Colouring-in of Buddha as a child. (your choice - see "Prince Siddharta" Colouring Book. OR Buddhnet Colouring Book. * Songs: Can be accessed through Buddhnet.
<p>5. Closure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Gain the attention of the children, If they are still at the tables, let them stay there. * Gather in any resources & worksheets. (see note) * Repeat the closing prayer together. * Wish them all a happy week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Chn. stop what they are doing & become ready to close the lesson. * Hand in any resources or worksheets. * Repeat with the teacher the closing prayer. 	<p>3-5 mins.</p>	<p>NOTE: Due to sensitivity about the use of the Buddha image, it is recommended that teachers collect all the chns. worksheets at the end of a lesson & keep them in a folder or scrapbook which can be shown to parents & given to the chn. at the end of term.</p>

TEACHER EVALUATION of the LESSON:

What worked well:

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Ideas for improvement:

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Comments on the Meditation:

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Comments on Resources (including the room):

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My reflections (any intuitive feelings, observations, comments from the children etc.):

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