



Plan for Week



Year 6
RE
W/B 6TH July 2020
Places of worship – Buddhist temple



Introduction

- We are going to take a closer look at how Buddhists worship, looking at symbols and beliefs as well as the place of worship..



Recap

Buddhist beliefs

Buddhists believe in Buddha. Buddha is not seen as a God but that he was important because he gained Enlightenment under the Bodhi tree and chose to share his teachings with others.





Buddhist beliefs

Karma is where every action has an effect and people's actions tie them into a cycle of birth, death and rebirth – endless suffering. Buddhists aim to break free of this cycle by understanding and following the teachings of Buddha.

The Three Jewels are the central beliefs of Buddhists

1. Believe in Buddha
2. Follow the teachings of Buddha
3. Move towards enlightenment





Buddhist beliefs

The Four Noble Truths

It was these four principles that the Buddha came to realise during his meditation under the bodhi tree.

1. All life involves some sort of suffering
2. Suffering is caused by desire
3. Desire can be overcome
4. The path to overcome them is the Eightfold Path (the path of truth)

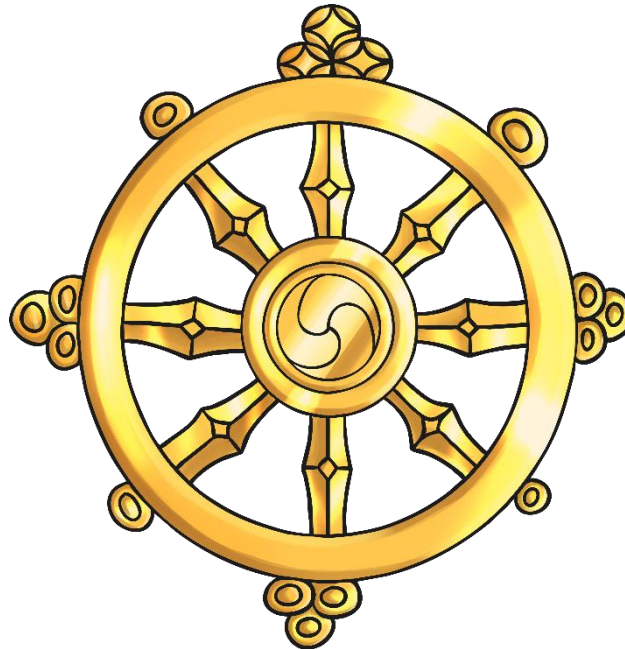




Buddhist beliefs

The final Noble Truth is the Buddha's answer to the end of suffering. This is a set of principles called the Eightfold Path.

The Eightfold Path is also called the Middle Way. The golden eight-spoke wheel is the symbol of the Eightfold Path





Buddhist beliefs

The eight stages don't have to be followed in order.

1. Right understanding or accepting Buddhist teachings.
2. Right intention – the right attitude towards faith.
3. Right speech - speaking truthfully.
4. Right action - behaving peacefully.





Buddhist beliefs

The eight stages don't have to be followed in order.

5.Right livelihood – making a living in a decent and honest way.

6.Right effort – being positive.

7. Right mindfulness - developing awareness of our feelings and states of mind.

8. Right concentration

The Buddha described the Eightfold Path as a means to enlightenment.



Buddhist symbols

The image of Buddha is a very important Buddhist symbol because Buddhists follow his teachings.

Buddha statues are also very special because the statues themselves include lots of symbols. An example of this is a round mark on his forehead. This is a symbol to show that he sees things that ordinary people cannot see.

There are many other symbols which can be used on any statue of Buddha.

Can you find out what the other symbols are?





Buddhist symbols

The lotus flower is a symbol of purity. It grows in the mud at the bottom of a pond but rises to the surface to display its beauty. Buddhist say this is how people should rise above everything.



The wheel of life is another important Buddhist symbol because it represents the cycle of birth, death and rebirth. The eight spokes are a representation of the Eightfold Path.





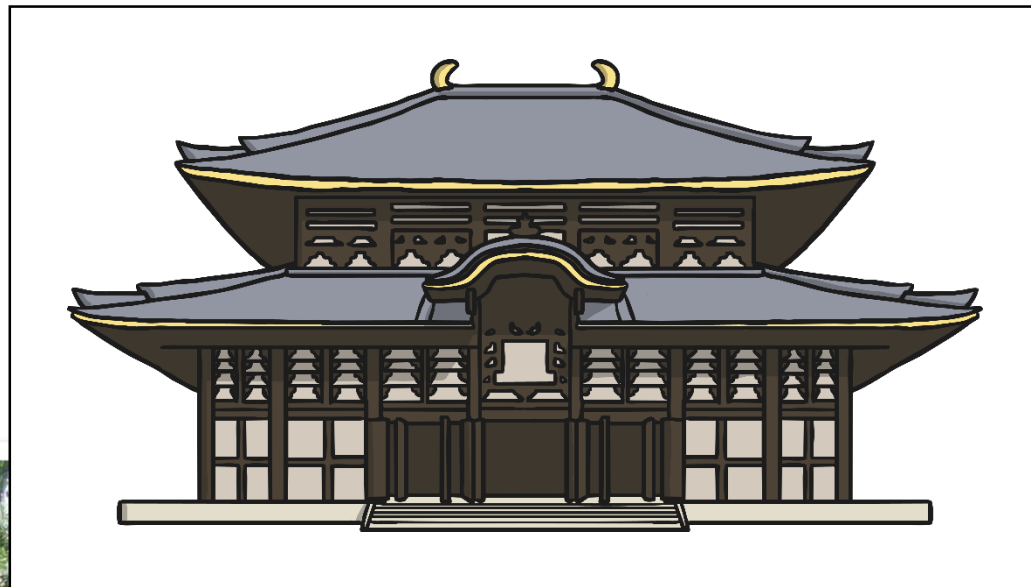
Places of worship

We are going to now focus on how worship takes place and the rules on entering the temple.





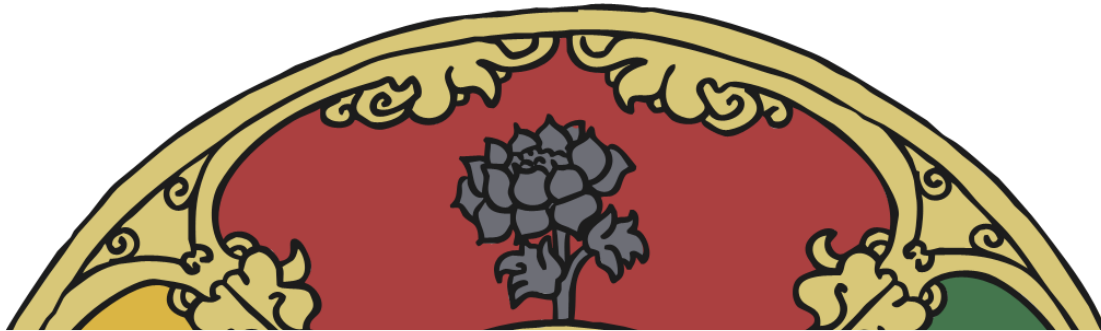
Places of Worship



All of these buildings look different, but what do they all have in common?

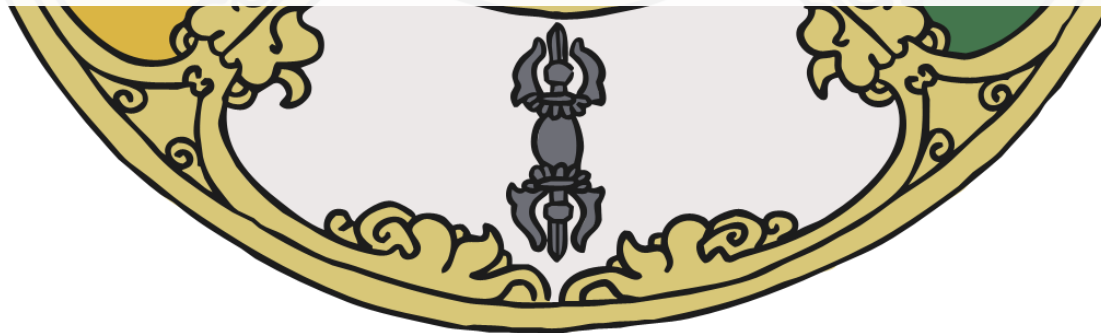
Who might visit them?

What might happen there?



Learning Objective

- To learn about the Buddhist temple and its importance to individuals and the community.





Success Criteria

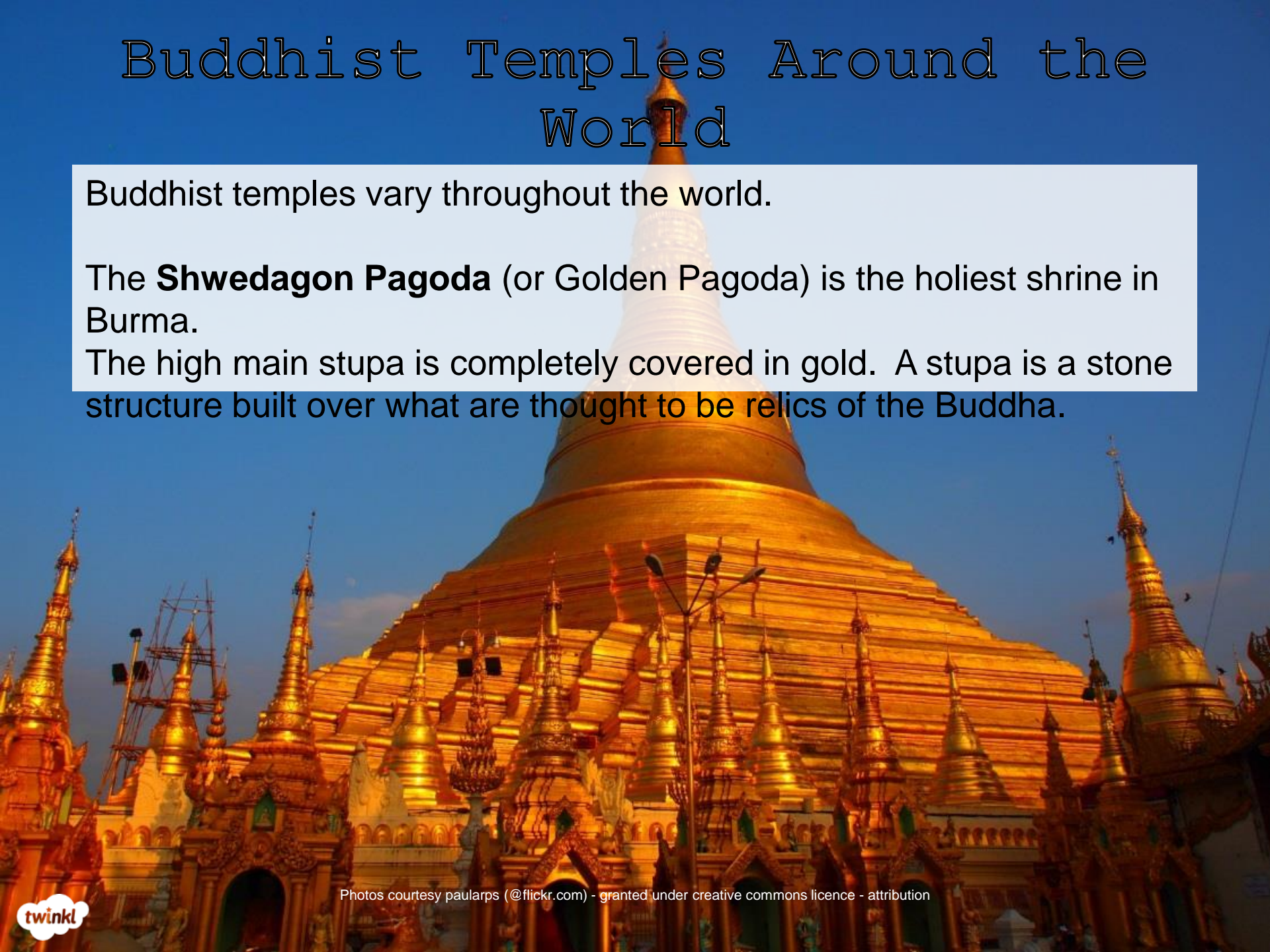
- I CAN NAME AND DESCRIBE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SPECIAL OBJECTS FOUND WITHIN BUDDHIST TEMPLES.
- I KNOW THAT THERE ARE RULES FOR HOW TO BEHAVE IN A BUDDHIST TEMPLE.
- I CAN EXPLAIN WHY THE TEMPLE IS AN IMPORTANT PLACE FOR MANY PEOPLE BY DESCRIBING ACTS OF WORSHIP.
- I CAN COMPARE THE TEMPLE WITH OTHER PLACES OF WORSHIP.

Buddhist Temples Around the World

Buddhist temples vary throughout the world.

The **Shwedagon Pagoda** (or Golden Pagoda) is the holiest shrine in Burma.

The high main stupa is completely covered in gold. A stupa is a stone structure built over what are thought to be relics of the Buddha.



Photos courtesy paularps (@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution



The **Mahabodhi Temple** is a Buddhist stupa in India.

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Carol '08



Tōdai-ji is one of the most famous Buddhist temples in Japan. It is home to one of the biggest Buddha statues in Japan and is the world's largest wooden building.



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Borobudur is the largest and most well known Buddhist temple in the world. Located in Indonesia, it was abandoned for centuries and lay hidden, the reason why still remains a mystery.



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Manjushri Kadampa Buddhist Temple

This is an international centre for Buddhism and temple for world peace located in Cumbria, UK. It is home to the largest bronze statue of Buddha in the western world.



Photos courtesy of litemedia (@flickr.com) and Ron Shirt @ Wikimedia commons - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

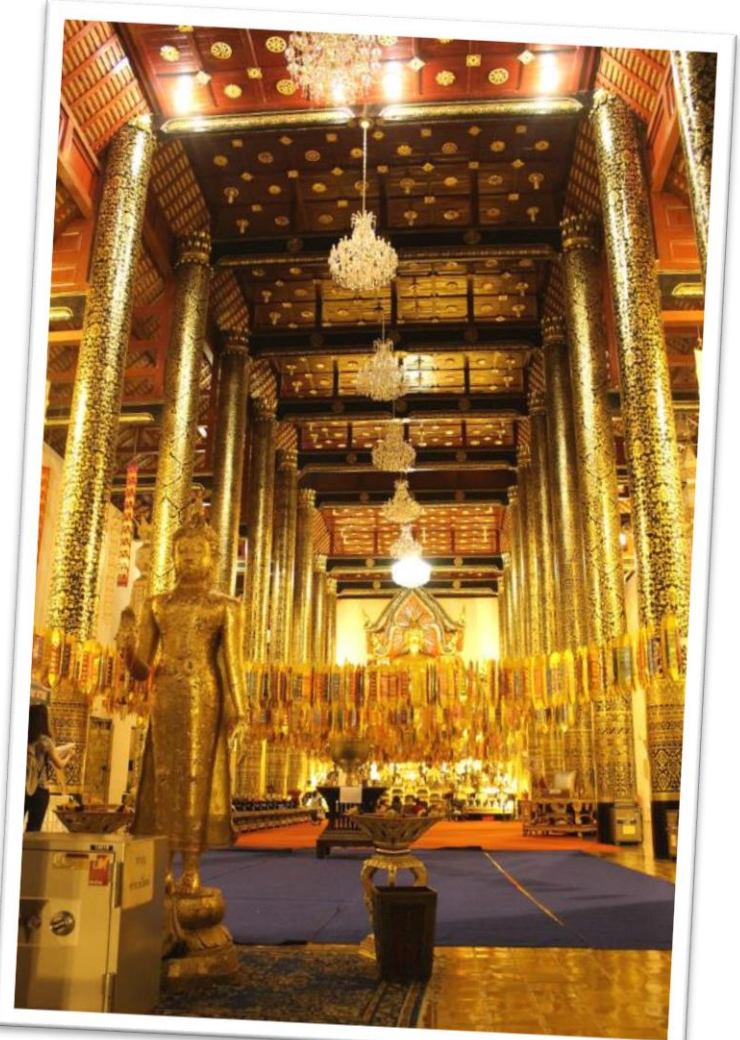
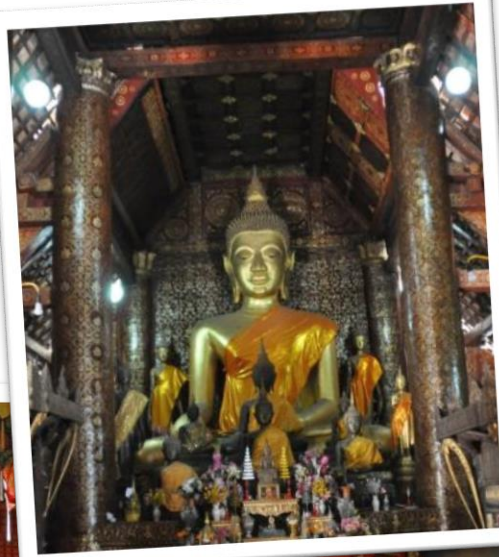
Buddhist temples are designed to symbolise the five elements.

- The **Earth** is represented by the square base of the temple.
- **Wisdom** is symbolised by the by the pinnacle at the very top.
- The spire represents **fire**.
- The crescent of a temple represents **air**.
- The dome represents **water**.

All Buddhist temples contain an image or a statue of Buddha.



Do all temples look the same
on the inside?



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Buddha

All Buddhist temples contain an image or statue of Buddha.

Lectern

From here, the head monk may give a talk to the worshippers.



Important Features of a Buddhist Temple



Courtyard or Meditation Area

A temple may have a silent area for meditation.



Wheel of Life

This is the Buddhist symbol. You might see this if you are ever visiting a Buddhist temple.



Why do people go to a Buddhist Temple?



People go to the temple to worship the image of Buddha. Worshippers usually sit on the floor barefoot.



Worshippers give offerings to Buddha such as flowers or candles. Worship is led by monks and is mostly meditation and chanting.



Why do people go to a Buddhist Temple?



Incense (a nice smelling fragrance) is used during worship to remind everyone to that Buddha is all around them.



Many Buddhists believe that worshipping together with other Buddhists helps them to understand their religion better and to feel part of a faith family. Being in the temple also helps Buddhists to get better at meditation which is a way of being calm and still.



Why do people go to a Buddhist Temple?



Buddhists also attend temple for special occasions such as weddings and religious festival days.



Why do people go to a Buddhist Temple?

Buddhists believe their lives are a cycle of death and re-birth until they reach Nirvana. Nirvana is thought to be the end of the cycle and is achieved only when all want is gone and true happiness is found.

Nirvana Day

This is a special annual festival which remembers the death of the Buddha, when he reached Nirvana. Buddhists spend Nirvana Day meditating and visiting their temple.

Wesak

This is the most important day in the Buddhist calendar as it celebrates Buddha's birthday. Buddhists visit their local temple for services and teaching, taking offerings of flowers, candles and food.



Buddhist Worship at Home



Buddhists can worship both at the temple and at home.

In a Buddhist home, there will be one room or area used as a shrine with a statue of Buddha, incense and candles.

Having a shrine in the home is an opportunity for a Buddhist to worship daily.





Showing Respect

- No talking in the shrine room.
- Wear appropriate clothing and no shoes to be worn inside.
- Special books should be kept off the floor.
- Sit with your legs crossed on the floor, do not straighten out your legs (this is a sign of disrespect, so is lying down).
- Bow to the statue of Buddha.
- Make offerings.



In some Buddhist cultures, prayer flags are flown to promote peace, strength, compassion, and wisdom. The wind is said to carry these messages from the flags to all people.



Blue representing the sky
White representing the wind
Red representing fire
Green representing water
Yellow representing the earth



Prayer Wheels



- Often a small revolving cylinder inscribed with or containing prayers, a revolution of which symbolizes the repetition of a prayer, used by Tibetan Buddhists.





**Prayer wheel and prayer book
are also very important**





Watch

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/buddhist-prayer-and-meditation/2872.html>

Click on this link to watch a video about a trip to a temple.

Discuss what was seen, what were your reactions and what are the similarities and differences between the temple and other places of worship.



Task



Cut and stick the photo showing the Buddhist temple. Underneath the photo write and draw pictures to show the following:

- significance of special objects found within Buddhist temples.
- rules for how to behave in a Buddhist temple.
- why the temple is an important place for many people by describing acts of worship.
- What special celebrations are celebrated in the temple?

Challenge: Write a paragraph to compare the temple with other places of worship.