

Buddhism in Japan  
Grades 9-12

Lesson Summary: Through literature, students will learn the history of Buddhism and the basic beliefs of Buddhism.

Estimated Duration: 1-2 class periods

Standards Addressed: Civil and Human Rights: Beliefs about civil and human rights vary among social and governmental systems, Nations and international organizations pursue their own interests on issues related to civil and human rights, resulting in both conflict and cooperation particularly as it relates to injustice against minority groups. Sustainability: Sustainability issues are interpreted and related differently by people viewing them from various political, economic and cultural perspectives. Globalization: Globalization has shaped new cultural, economic, and political ideas and entities.

Pre-Assessment: We will use a class discussion format to determine what students know about Buddhism, karma, and samsara.

Scoring Guidelines: Participation in discussion will count for a grade.

Post- Assessment: Character comparison charts will be graded

Scoring Guidelines: Charts will be graded from completeness and accuracy.

Instructional Procedures:

- 1) Using lecture format, students will take notes on the beginnings of Buddhism and the belief of the those who follow Buddhism.
- 2) Students will read a couple of the Jataka Tales. Students will review the 8-fold path through these stories.
- 3) Students will discuss the ideas of karma and samsara.
- 4) Students will choose an additional story and identify where the character uses the 8-fold path and what role karma and samsara play in the story.
- 5) Students will complete a character comparison.

Differentiated Instructional Support: Students with learning disabilities pertaining to writing and comprehension will be given guided notes and supported reading questions.

Mary Hughes Bachelor  
Teacher Implementation Plan  
Teaching About East Asia  
April 2013

Extension: Students will be studying Zen Buddhism in relation to architecture with team teacher.

Homework Options and Home Connections: None

Interdisciplinary Connections: Students will be creating zen gardens in art class with Mrs. A.

Materials and Resources:

*For Teacher:* Jataka Tales, Buddhism information  
([www.chiddingstone.kent.sch.uk/homework/religion/buddhism.htm](http://www.chiddingstone.kent.sch.uk/homework/religion/buddhism.htm))

*For Students:* Jataka Tales, Character Comparison Worksheet

Key Vocabulary: Buddhism

Technology Connections: Powerpoint lecture

Research Connections: Students will have the option to research Zen Gardens for art class and Buddha in connection with a following lesson.

Attachments: None