

## World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

**Teacher Name:** Amy Guess

**Humanities Discipline:** Art History

**Date:** February 8, 2017

**World Religion:** Buddhism

**Teaching Module Title:** History of the Figural Buddha in Art

### Teaching Module Goals:

1. Students will become familiar with many various depictions of Buddha.
2. Students will be able to make comparisons between aniconic imagery of Buddhism and other religions.
3. Students will understand why there are so many depictions of Buddha in various forms and what iconography is associated with their meanings.

### Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

1. [http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/budd/hd\\_budd.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/budd/hd_budd.htm)
2. [http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/chbu/hd\\_chbu.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/chbu/hd_chbu.htm)
3. [http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/kobs/hd\\_kobs.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/kobs/hd_kobs.htm)
4. [http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/tibu/hd\\_tibu.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/tibu/hd_tibu.htm)
5. <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-asia/beginners-guide-asian-culture/buddhist-art-culture/a/images-of-enlightenment>
6. <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-asia/beginners-guide-asian-culture/buddhist-art-culture/a/conception-of-the-buddha-to-be-in-queen-mayas-dream>

### Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. How do depictions of Buddha (or Buddhas) vary from culture to culture; or rather country to country? What are their similarities/differences?
2. How was Buddha initially depicted prior to his human figural form?
3. Why are there so many different depictions of Buddha? What are the various meaning behind this change in appearance?
4. What do the aniconic forms of Buddha mean?
5. How is Buddha depicted at his conception/birth? How is this similar/different to Christian imagery of the conception/birth of Christ?

### Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

Students will select one image of Buddha of their choosing and write a research paper explaining the iconography, interpretation and cultural meaning of their selected Buddha.