

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Douglas Hammerling

Humanities Discipline: U.S. History

Date: January 10, 2017

World Religion: Buddhist

Teaching Module Title: Buddhist Religious Traditions Part 1

Teaching Module Goals:

1. Introduce students to the basic religious rituals, scriptures, and holidays of Buddhist religion
2. Explore the basic beliefs of Buddhism
3. Familiarize students with the life of Buddha, Buddha's images, temples, and devotion

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

1. Bowker, World Religions, "Buddhism" chapter
2. "The Buddha," www.pbs.org/thebuddha, documentary and website that explores the life of Buddha and the Buddhist religion.

Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. What are the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism?
2. What is the difference between Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism?
3. Who was Buddha? When did he live? What was his life like before the age of 29?
4. What is the tree of enlightenment? What did he realize?
5. What is a Stupa? Who was Ashoka? What did Stupas become in Southeast Asia?
6. What is the Pure Land School of Buddhism? Where is it located? What is unique about it?
7. Who does the lotus blossom symbolize in the Buddhist religion?
8. What is Tantric Buddhism?

Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

1. Write a paper comparing and contrasting Buddhism in Japan and China. What is similar? What is different? What is Zen Buddhism? What is the importance of tea? What is landscape art in Japanese Buddhism? What is Karma? Why did it appeal to many Chinese people? How is Buddha depicted in China? If you were a follower of Buddhism, which type of Buddhism (Chinese or Japanese) would appeal to you and why?
2. Draw a time line of Buddha's life.
3. Obtain an image of a Buddhist statue. Identify the meanings and symbols that surround the Buddha. For example: what is the significance of posture, throne, cloak, hair, and halo. What is the mark of superman on the Buddha?