

Understanding Major World Religions
“Background on East Asia and Buddhism”

I. East Asia background

A. Designated in three ways

1. Geographically
2. Ethnicity
3. Culturally

B. China background

1. Links to past
2. Modern times

II. Buddhism

A. Key features

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

B. Major figure

1. Siddhartha Gautama, 560-480 BC, known as Buddha
2. Knowledge of him
3. Buddha means “The E_____ One”
 - a. Background on his life
 - b. Wise men said that if he saw four signs, he would become a universal teacher.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 5. The prophecy fulfilled.
4. He practiced self-torture while looking for truth – contrast to Christian world view.
 - a. Temptations from Mara
 1. The three daughters were sent to seduce him with:
d_____
 - p_____
 - p_____
 2. He withstood them and attained e_____.

III. Key Doctrines

A. Cornerstone is the fourfold truths.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

B. Explanation of suffering

1. Key thought

C. Understanding the eightfold path

1. Right _____

2. Right _____

3. Right _____

4. Right _____

5. Right _____

6. Right _____

7. Right _____

8. Right _____

D. Dharma

1. The social order

E. Nirvana

F. Self

IV. Two primary branches

A. Theravada

1. Beliefs

2. Key doctrines

B. Mahayana

1. Beliefs

2. Key doctrines

V. Points of contact with Christianity

A. Problem of suffering

B. Pantheism

C. Self