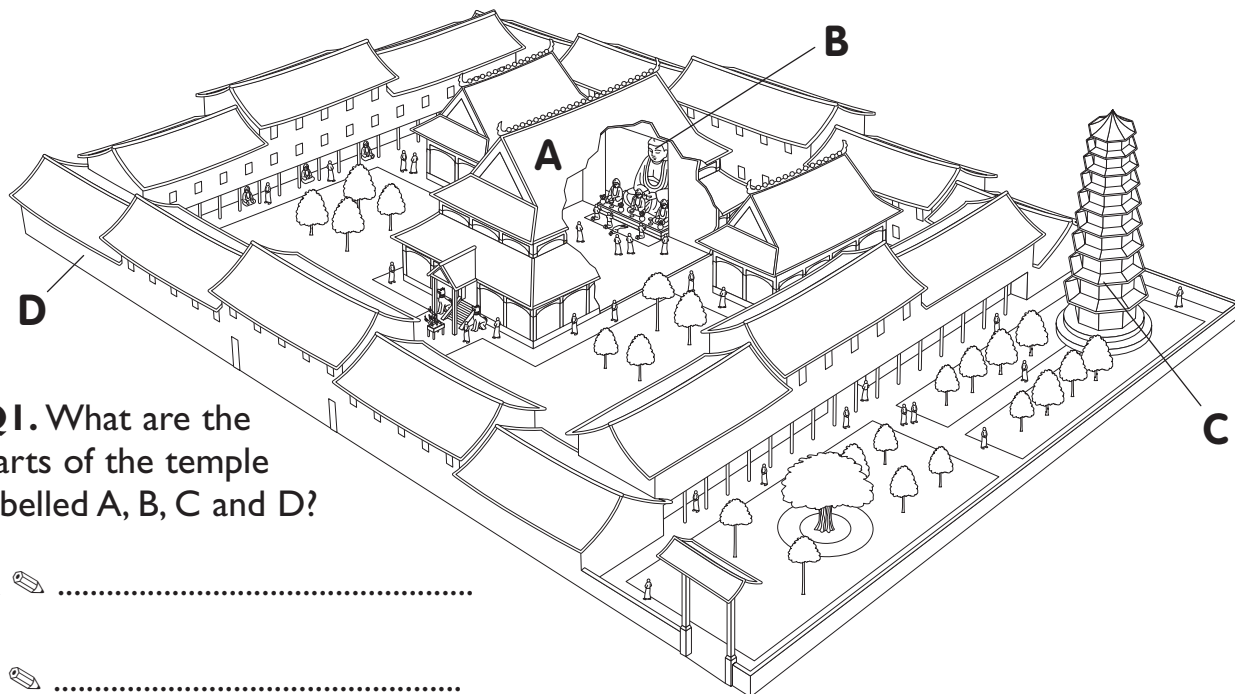


A Buddhist temple

A Buddhist temple is a place to learn about and thank the **Buddha**.



Q1. What are the parts of the temple labelled A, B, C and D?

A

B

C

D

Q2. What are two other names for a pagoda?

.....

.....

Q3. What might you find inside a pagoda?

.....

Q4. Who might live at a temple all the time?

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Q5. Why might some people live at a temple for a few days or weeks ?

.....

Q6. Why do some temples have fig trees?

.....

.....

Answers

1. **A=main shrine hall; B=statue of Buddha; C=pagoda; D=meditation room.**
2. **Stupa, chorten, dagoba, prang, that, tap, chedi.**
3. **Statue of the Buddha or another important Buddhist teacher.**
4. **Monk or nun.**
5. **To study Buddhism.**
6. **As a reminder of the tree the Buddha sat under when he became enlightened.**

Lesson objectives

- ▶ To provide an introduction to the temple.
- ▶ To understand what some of the parts of a temple are for.
- ▶ To introduce some of the features of a large temple.

Lesson outcomes

- ▶ The children know what some of the features of a large temple are used for.
- ▶ The children can describe some of the features of a large temple.

Teaching notes

Buddhist temples come in all shapes, sizes and designs. In the UK, many Buddhist temples have been built inside existing buildings, while others are designed to look like Thai or Japanese temples. Some temples might consist of a single, small shrine or pagoda, while others may house hundreds of monks. Larger temples may also be called monasteries, especially if they are used for the training of monks. The

temple shown here is a large Chinese-style temple, but all of the elements in this temple can be found in other temples.

One of the most common features of a Buddhist temple is the stupa, or pagoda. In ancient India, the body of kings and saints were cremated and the ashes were often buried under earthen mounds, called stupas. When the Buddha died, his ashes were also buried under a mound and an umbrella, a symbol of royalty, was placed on top of the mound. King Ashoka, an early Buddhist king, built thousands of rock and marble mounds, called stupas, around India as symbols of the Buddha, and over time the stupas became more and more elaborate and decorative. As Buddhism spread to other countries and cultures, the name and design of the stupas changed to accommodate local styles – this is why pagodas and chortens look very different from stupas.

*The Bodhi tree is the name given to a particular tree at a place called Bodh Gaya, which is where Buddha sat the night he became enlightened. The tree itself was a type of fig (*Ficus religiosa*). Many temples have this type of tree growing in the grounds and some of the trees are believed to be the offspring of the original tree.*

Complementary work

The children could use secondary sources to find out about designs of some temples in other countries.

Resources

Student book, pages 6 to 7 and secondary sources about temples around the world, such as www.planetware.com/sub/BUDDHA.HTM