

Name: _____

Date: _____ Mod: _____

The Influence of Confucianism and Buddhism in China
Lesson 1

DO NOW:

Directions: Define the words **religion** and **philosophy**. Together as a class, we will discuss some of the characteristics of each.

Religion: _____

Philosophy: _____

Religion	Philosophy

Directions: In groups, answer this question about Religion and Philosophy.

What examples of religion and philosophy do you see in our society today? Give four examples.

Directions: Let's relate our understanding of religion and philosophy to Buddhism and Confucianism. Define them again and based on their definition, characterize them as either a religion or a philosophy and explain.

Buddhism:

Definition: _____

Religion or Philosophy? Explain. _____

Confucianism:

Definition: _____

Religion or Philosophy? Explain. _____

Buddhism
Lesson 2

DO NOW:

Directions: In your own words, write the meaning of religion and philosophy and which category Buddhism and Confucianism belong.

Buddhism

Directions: As a class, we will read a short origin story of Siddhartha Gautama.

Life of Buddha

Buddhism, Enlightenment & Nirvana

The life of the person who would become known as the Buddha began some two and a half thousand years ago when Siddhartha Gautama, the founding figure of Buddhism, was born at Lumbini south of the Himalayas. In terms of today's states this birthplace is in Nepal and quite close to India.

Before and after his birth into a locally influential minor Royal House certain signs and portents seemed to indicate that the child would have a momentous future.

Given these prophecies Siddhartha's father decreed that his son should be raised in all luxury and also be strictly sheltered from such realities as illness, old age, and mortality.

As a teenager the young Prince was entrusted to the hospitality and education of priests and teachers. Siddhartha subsequently took a Princess Yashodhara as his wife and lived a life of some material luxury and sensual licence.

Then, in his late twenties, Prince Siddhartha, and several friends were out hunting and met with a person who was in grievous pain, a person who was incapacitated by the effects of extreme old

age, and then with the funeral observances for yet another person. These meetings with the misfortunes of life took place despite the orders of the King that the aged, the ill, and deceased persons, were not to be allowed to cross Siddhartha's path !!!

Thoroughly disillusioned and troubled Prince Siddhartha headed towards his palatial home. Some time later Prince Siddhartha came across an itinerant priest, who was of a profoundly tranquil demeanour, who discreetly sought alms. The Prince was much impressed by the calm and peace that seemed to radiate from the Holy man.

That very night Prince Siddhartha, in what Buddhism calls the Great Renunciation, abandoned his high station and himself embarked on life as a seeker after truth.

Some time passed in contemplation and travel, many visits were made to the abodes of Holy persons. Despite his contemplations, travels and severe austerities Siddhartha did not consider that he made worthwhile progress for all of seven years although he had become known to others as Sakyamuni - the Sage of the Sakya's.

Siddhartha concluded that the life of austerity he was leading was not going to be of assistance in his search for truth and began to live less austere.

Then one day, whilst sitting under a great, spreading, Bo tree Siddhartha felt that he was undergoing profound, and extensive, alterations of realisation and awakening. It is from this time that Siddhartha began to be referred to as the Buddha, a name implying his having gained Enlightenment.

Siddhartha Gautama Buddha is said to have attained Nirvana in association with this Enlightenment experience. Nirvana being a state where suffering is eliminated through the abandonment of desires - desires being the cause of suffering. The attainment of Nirvana is held to bring release from an otherwise endless succession of reincarnations or rebirths. The term Nirvana has suggestive associations with a verb indicating cooling, or possibly, extinguishment!!!

Write three important details about Siddhartha's life below.

What are the beliefs of Buddhism?

Why would these beliefs be appealing to people including the Chinese?

How did Buddhism spread and grow throughout China?

Art in Buddhism
Lesson 3

Look at the pictures of the various Buddhas. Look at what his hands are doing. Look at the chart to see what the hand gestures mean. Label the number to the hand gesture and meaning.

#1



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6



Hand Gesture	Meaning	Number
Hands on lap	meditation	
One hand on lap and other hand out on leg	Calling to the Earth, connecting with the Earth	
Hands out, palm out	Calming	
Hand with three fingers out and thumb and index finger making a circle	Teaching	
Hand low with palm out	Charity, giving, generosity	
Finger making circles intertwined	Turning the wheel of law in motion	

Scavenger Hunt at Penn Museum:

Look at all of the Buddhas and describe the way that they look. Look at the hand gestures. Pick at least 6 Buddhas.

Buddha #1

Buddha #2

Buddha #3

Buddha #4

Buddha #5

Buddha #6

Confucianism
Lesson 4

Directions: As a class, we will read a short origin story of Confucius.

Confucius

Confucius, 551-479, was the Chinese sage who founded Confucianism. Born of a poor but aristocratic family in the state of Lu (in what is now Qufu, in Shandong province), he was orphaned at an early age. As a young man, he held several minor government posts; in later years, he advanced to become minister of justice in his home state. But he held these positions only intermittently and for short periods because of conflicts with his superiors. Throughout his life, he was best known as a teacher. By the time of his death at the age of 72, he had taught a total of 3,000 disciples, who carried on his teaching.

Three doctrines of Confucius are particularly important. The first is benevolence (*ren*, or *jen*). Confucius considered benevolence as something people cultivate within themselves before it can affect their relations with others. The best way to approach benevolence is in terms of enlightened self-interest, that is, putting the self in the position of the other and then treating the other accordingly. Two sayings of Confucius best express this idea: "Do not do to others what you would not like yourself"; and "Do unto others what you wish to do unto yourself." Benevolence means the practice of these two sayings. The second doctrine concerns the superior man (*junzi*, or *chun-tzu*). The superior man is one who practices benevolence regardless of family background. Ritual propriety is the third doctrine. Confucius emphasized right behavior in one's relations; man should act in accordance with propriety. Thus one behaves ritualistically with the other. Such behavior is called *li*; it encompasses social and aesthetic norms that guide people in their social relations.

The sayings of Confucius were later incorporated into the book called the *Analects*. Confucius is also considered the author of the *Book of Rites* and the *Spring and Autumn Annals*, a history of the state of Lu from 771 to 579.

Write three important details about Confucius' life below.

Study Primary Source Documents

Directions: With a partner, read quotes by Confucius and decipher the meaning of these quotes by answering the questions following the reading.

Quotes:

Quote #1: Be not ashamed of mistakes and thus make them crimes.

Quote #2: I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.

Quote #3: When anger rises, think of the consequences.

Quote #4: He who exercises government by means of his virtue may be compared to the north polar star, which keeps its place and all the stars turn towards it.

Quote #5: What you do not wish done to yourself, do not do to others.

Quote #6: Study as if you were never to master it; as if in fear of losing it.

Quote #7: In education there should be no class distinction.

Quote #8: If there be righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character. If there be beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home. If there be harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation. If there be order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.

Pick **FOUR** quotes and answer the following questions:

1. What is the author's position or main idea?

2. For what audience was the document written?

3. What are three things the author wrote that you think are important?

4. What was the purpose or goal of the document—why was it written?

5. What evidence in the document helps you to know why it was written?

6. How do these quotations from Confucius affect Chinese society and your life?

Final Project

Directions: Make a creative project in class about the day in the life of an Ancient/Medieval Chinese citizen influenced by Buddhism and Confucianism. How would they encounter Confucianism and Buddhism in their daily life? Students can pick one of the following projects:

- Poster
- Paper
- Skit/Speech
- Creative Presentation (use of technology from the library, such as powerpoint)
- Comic

Each project must include at least 3 facts about Buddhism and 3 facts about Confucianism. Each project should describe how these belief systems influence the way Chinese citizens lived.