INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

DIDACTIC REFERENCES - SECONDARY LEVEL I

Objectives

Students will be able to …

1. get to know Buddha as a historical personality and founder of Buddhism.
2. to retrace the various stages of his life.
3. to summarize the most important aspects of the stages of his life in his own words.
4. to relate Buddha's life story to your own.

INTRODUCTION

Material 1 shows a scroll painting (thangka) of the historical Buddha with the earth touching gesture. The pupils bring associations and previous knowledge into the class discussion. Questions can also be included.

NOTES

Buddha's path of life shows the possibility to become independent of external conditions and - for the benefit of all beings - to perfect all inner qualities. Since all external conditions are constantly changing, they are not a reliable basis for lasting happiness. Buddha as a teacher gives methods to experience "one's own clear light" and to realize liberation and enlightenment.

EXERCISE

The basic text is output as **Material 2** and the associated questions are answered in group work on **Worksheet 1**, this can also be done in a division of labor. Pupils will find suitable terms for the individual phases. The results are presented in the plenum, see **Answers to WS 1**.

EXTRA optional

The pupils receive **Worksheet 2** with pictures from Buddha's life. You will find short, suitable terms to describe the respective phase of life in individual work. **Answers to WS 2** give suggestions for solutions, which are compared in the class discussion.

TRANSFER

The pupils work on the tasks of **Worksheet 3** and discuss their answers in the group. This is about comparing Buddha's life story with the circumstances, ideas and wishes for one's own life. The pupils find similarities in the basic conditions, so for most of them the basic care is ensured and good education is available. In addition, there is a surplus for hobbies and own interests. In order to reach their goal, the pupils note their own ideas, which wishes or dreams motivate them in their lives. They are asked to differentiate between external and internal goals. Their realization needs a feasible way, these ideas should also be formulated. **Answers to WS 3** offers possible results.
In the plenary session, those pupils who wish to do so can present their ideas. They can discuss similarities and differences and address particular impulses.

EXTRA optional

The movie “Little Buddha” is shown. Source: “Little Buddha”, Bernardo Bertolucci , 1993 Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hD377F1gneE