MATERIAL 1

STEP 1

Siddhartha, the later Buddha,
grew up inside the palace in a sheltered world where there was only youth, beauty, pleasure and joyful experiences. As the son of a prince, he learned everything that belonged to the education of the families of the ruler caste of ancient India and prepared him for a life as a warrior king. In addition to mathematics, reading, writing and law, he also perfected the use of weapons, chariot driving, riding and elephant taming. The young prince grew up in a world of luxury according to the ideas of his parents, enjoyed life, married and had a son.

IMPULSE

This is an excellent, wonderful situation that could hardly be better. But he left the palace and his sheltered life. Why?

Make guesses.

STEP 2

Shortly after Siddhartha's birth the parents had received a prophecy:
"Unless your son comes into contact with the sufferings of the world, he will become a great ruler according to your wishes. But should he perceive the sufferings of the world, he will leave everything behind and bring a new dimension into the world. He will find a way to achieve lasting happiness."