**B**uddhism was founded by Siddhartha Gautama. He was an Indian prince born around 563 BC in the Kshatriya caste, also known as the warrior class.

**U**nder a tree, later named the Tree of Wisdom, Siddhartha meditated for seven weeks. He realized human suffering came from three things: wanting what we like but do not have, wanting to keep what we like and already have, and not wanting what we dislike but have

**D**uring the spread of Buddhism, the religion itself began to change because not all Buddhists could agree on their beliefs and practices. Two major branches of Buddhism were created: Theravada and Mahayana.

**D**uring his travel, Buddha gained many followers, especially among India’s merchants and artisans. These followers were the first believers in Buddhism

**H**indu ideas were challenged in Buddha’s teachings. Buddha rejected many ideas in the Vedas, like animal sacrifice. He also challenged the authority of the Hindu priests, the Brahmins.

**I**n the Theravada branch in Buddhism, they tried to follow Buddha’s teaching exactly how he stated them. Mahayana Buddhists believed they could interpret the teachings to help them reach nirvana. Mahayana is by far the largest branch

**S**iddhartha Gautama was 35 when he reached enlightenment. From then on, he was called the Buddha, or the “Enlightened One.” He spent the rest of his life traveling across northern India.

**M**issionaries, people who work to spread their religious beliefs, were sent to kingdoms in Asia. Missionaries taught Buddhism to millions of people