Macy Miller & Melina Nguyen

Tickler

AP World/Period: 4

4 June 2016

Buddhism Summary

Our project is about the story of how Siddhartha Gautama became Buddha. In order to get our message and research across, we decided to make a children’s story book. That way, we could use simple sentences as well as pictures to show the steps of his journey. The main question we had in our mind was “What was the origin of Buddhism, and how did it spread and impact other countries.”

Buddhism was brought into this world by Siddhartha Gautama. Gautama was enlightened after setting out to find a solution for human suffering. He experienced human suffering at a young age so when he set out to find a solution, Gautama tried meditation and yoga but that did not work. Instead of finding that solution, he was enlightened under a tree. After Gautama gave his first sermon in a park, he gained two disciples which eventually grew. Gautama had gained the name Buddha meaning one who is enlightened or chosen. As years passed it became time for Gautama to die so he asked his disciples to continue spreading his teachings. As a result Ashoka, the emperor of India, adopted Buddhism as India’s main religion. Ashoka sent missionaries around the world to spread Gautama’s teachings.

After this project, we have learned more about Buddhism than what we expected. We learned that it was Ashoka who continued out Gautama’s wishes after he died. Also, we learned that just after his first sermon he gained disciples. This project has taught us that one small idea can go far if you follow through with it and do not give up. Gautama was determined to find a solution for human suffering and he was enlightened insead. He gave people hope and a new outlook on life.

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