The Beginning of Buddhism **Answers**

1. Who was Siddhartha Gautama?

   A rich prince

2. Which word closely matches the meaning of the word suffering?

   misery

3. What was Siddhartha Gautama thinking about under the Bodhi tree?

   When Siddhartha Gautama was sitting under the Bodhi tree, he was thinking about how people could learn to stop suffering.

4. Who did Siddhartha Gautama become after meditating?
   After meditating, Siddhartha Gautama became the Buddha.

5. In the Four Noble Truths created by Buddha, what does Dukkha mean?
   That all people suffer.

6. Match up the sentences.

People suffer because	a set of instructions.
Their suffering will end	they want things.
The Eightfold Path is	when they stop wanting things.

7. Why did people suffer?
   Because they wanted things they hadn't got.

8. What do Buddhists do on Asala-Dharma Day? Tick all that apply.
   Give thanks for Buddha's wisdom.
   Think about when Buddha began teaching.

9. What is the purpose of Buddha's teachings?
   To help people live happier lives.

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1. Write two pieces of information we are told about Siddhartha Gautama.

   We are told that Siddhartha Gautama was born in Nepal around the 6th century BC/he was a wealthy prince who had everything he ever needed.

2. Which word describes how Siddhartha Gautama felt when he saw people outside of his palace?

   distressed

3. In your own words, explain what important truth Siddhartha Gautama learned about life that day.

   Answers will vary, but possible answers will include that everyone would suffer at some point in their lives.

4. How did Siddhartha Gautama's life change after an encounter with a holy man?

   After Siddhartha Gautama met a holy man, he gave up his wealth and lived as a homeless holy man.

5. Look at the paragraph beginning 'Over a long period of time...' - what impression do we get about Siddhartha Gautama's character?

   Answers will vary; example answer: The impression we get about Siddhartha Gautama's character is that he was disciplined and would not allow anything to distract him while he was meditating.

6. What happened after Siddhartha Gautama finished meditating? Tick two answers.

   He was enlightened.

   He was the Buddha.

7. Give two examples of what might cause Samudaya.

   Two examples of things which might cause Samudaya are desire for fame, wealth or a desire to avoid unhappy feelings. (Choose any two.)

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8. If you asked Buddha how to stop feeling miserable about life, what might he advise?

   To help me stop feeling miserable about life, Buddha might advise that I stop thinking about things I want and don't have.

9. What is the purpose of the Eightfold Path?

   To reach enlightenment.

10. What is the purpose of Asala-Dharma Day?

    The purpose of Asala-Dharma Day is to celebrate the beginning of Buddhism and Buddha's teachings.

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1. Explain what is meant when the text says Siddhartha Gautama had been kept away from the 'harsh realities of life'. Give one example of this.

   Siddhartha Gautama had been kept away from the 'harsh realities of life', means that as he was a wealthy prince and he had not seen what real life was like for people. When he stepped out of the palace, he saw an old man, an ill man and a corpse, and he suddenly realised that the world was different to the one he was used to in the palace.

2. Find and copy one word which means the men that Siddhartha Gautama met outside his palace had experienced pain for a while.

   endured

3. Why do you think seeing these three men, 'greatly troubled' Siddhartha Gautama?

   Answers will vary based on Siddhartha Gautama suddenly being aware of what life was like for ordinary people/he had a conscience about how he lived compared to other people/he became afraid that he would become ill, old and die.

4. Look at the paragraph beginning 'Over a long period of time ...' to the paragraph ending '...became the Buddha'. What impressions do we get about the character of Siddhartha Gautama? Give one example from the text.

   We get the impression that Siddhartha Gautama had great discipline/strong will/determination because the text says that 'he was completely determined not to be distracted by anything'/'triumphed over his demons of temptation and distraction'.

5. What did Siddhartha Gautama do after he had reached Enlightenment? Identify two facts.

   After reaching enlightenment, Siddhartha Gautama became Buddha/decided to teach others about his wisdom and understanding about the world/created the Four Noble Truths. (Accept any two.)

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6. Identify three possible causes of people experiencing Samudaya and give a modern-day example of each one.

Three possible causes of people experiencing Samudaya could be a desire for fame, money, recognition, or a desire to avoid unpleasant feelings. (Accept any three.) One example might be someone who wants to be a famous singer for no other reason than attention and money.

7. Tick true or false for these statements and correctly write the false statements.

	True	False
After a going into a deep state of concentration, Siddhartha Gautama understood how people could avoid suffering.	True	
Siddhartha Gautama realised that everyone would suffer in some way during their lives and that no one could avoid suffering.	True	
Siddhartha Gautama met a holy man and realised he needed to remain a prince to help people become happier.		False
Siddhartha Gautama reached enlightenment because he gave in to the demons distracting him.		False

8. If you asked a Buddhist how you could end your unhappiness, what might they suggest?

A Buddhist might suggest you try to let go of the things you think you want, learn to live in the present rather than looking back at the past or trying to imagine a perfect future.

9. What issues are the rules in the Eightfold path concerned with?

The issues in the Eightfold Path are concerned with wisdom, morality and meditation.

10. In your opinion, what do you think would be the benefit of following Buddha's advice and how difficult or easy do you think that would be?

Possible answers may include reference to trying to feel happier, trying not to want things all the time, enjoying and appreciating blessings.

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