

Name _____ Section _____ Date _____

LT: I can analyze symbols in artwork that explain Buddhist beliefs

Do Now: Answer the following questions:

1. When did Siddhartha Gautama become Buddha? _____
2. On his path to enlightenment, Buddha developed teachings of what the world was like– what were these teachings called? _____
3. How can you overcome desire, according to Buddhism? _____
4. Do you believe anyone knows what the afterlife is like? _____



Buddhism: Some FAQs

1. When did Buddhism begin?
2. Are there gods in Buddhism?
3. What happens when you achieve nirvana?

Did you know: Nirvana, the Buddhist term for enlightenment, actually means "extinguishing." Why do you think that is?

Wheel of Becoming

The Wheel of Becoming is one of the most popular pieces of Buddhist art. Besides being a really impressive piece of art (You can see it at the Rubin Museum in Manhattan!), it also represents many of the key beliefs in Buddhism– namely, those of _____, _____, & _____.



Your task is to analyze how this painting represents key Buddhist beliefs by answering the questions on the next page.

To assist you in answering the questions, use the half-sheets provided to you as well.



OUTSIDE THE CIRCLE

Who is the monster grabbing the wheel? What does he represent?

Why do you think Buddhists want to remember that everyone is going to die?

THE INNER CIRCLE

What are the three mental poisons?

Why do you think the different animals are used to represent the three mental poisons?

THE SECOND CIRCLE

What does the white path symbolize?

What does the black path symbolize?

THE THIRD CIRCLE

Review: What does samsara mean?

What are the three bad types of rebirth in samsara?

What are the three good types of rebirth in samsara?

Which realm is the closest to achieving nirvana? Why? (This one's tough!)

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Buddhism Homework

1. Pretend your friend just asked you, "what's Buddhism?" How would you respond? (3-5 sentences)

2. What are some major similarities/differences you notice between Hinduism/Buddhism? Include at least three items in each box.

Hinduism	Both	Buddhism

3. Write one question or comment you have about Hinduism/Buddhism.