Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

GHI Buddhism Mrs. Valdes

**The Story of the Buddha aka Siddhartha Gautama**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Easy | India | | Poor | | old age | | | rebirth |
| Siddhartha | Realities | | Death | | Enlightenment | | | Enlightened |
| Four | | Meditation | | Eightfold | | Fig | Nirvana | |
| Caste System | | Tripitika | |  | |  |  | |

Directions: Using your notes and the word bank above, complete the “Story of the Buddha” below.

1.The name 'Buddha' means 'the **Enlightened** one'. Buddhists follow the teachings of the Buddha, but do not believe him to be a god.

2.The Buddha was born **Siddhartha** Gautama in around 580BC in the village of Lumbini in **India**.

3. He was a prince born into a rich family. When he was young he had an **easy** life as he was protected from the harsh **realities** of sickness, suffering and death.

4. The years passed. Siddhartha married and had a child, but found he was worried by many issues. He went outside the royal palace where he lived and went to **poor** areas.

5. For the first time he saw **old age**, sickness and **death**.

6. He also saw a holy man (monk). He made the decision to leave his wife, his baby son and his privileged life and began to search the world to find a higher truth or **enlightenment**.

7. Siddhartha searched for a truth which would release him from the cycle of dying and **rebirth** after death also known as reincarnation.

8. He studied with wise teachers, practiced **meditation** and lived a life of extreme self-denial and discipline, but still he did not find the answers he needed.

9. The search took him six years, but Siddhartha found enlightenment while meditating under a **fig** tree.

10. Following this he became known as the Buddha and dedicated his life to spreading his message.

11. Buddhists believe they can escape the cycle of reincarnation and achieve **Nirvana** by following the Middle Way through the **Four** Noble Truths and the **Eightfold** Path.

12. Buddhists reject the **caste system** of the Hindu religion and believe that every person is equal despite their social position. This is the reason why it has spread throughout South Asia.

13. Although the Buddha did not write down his beliefs, his disciples or followers wrote them down in a book called the **Tripitika**, or the Three Baskets of Wisdom.