

Knowledge Organiser: Religious Leaders

Siddhartha Gautama: The Buddha (Buddhism)

Siddhartha Gautama was born in a place near India around 500 CE. He became known as the Buddha, or 'the enlightened one' later in his life.

Buddhists believe that Siddhartha was born a prince and lived a rich life in a palace. After his birth a prophecy was made that he would become either a great king (like his father) or a holy man. His father wanted Siddhartha to be a king just like him and so stopped him from seeing any suffering in the world.

Siddhartha was given everything he could ever want and at 16 years old he married a beautiful princess. But Siddhartha was not happy living like a prisoner. **He wanted to find out about life outside the palace.**

One day he left the palace grounds and went into a city. There he saw the FOUR SIGHTS (illness, old age, death and a holy man) which changed his life. He wanted to **find out why people suffer and try to stop it**. On the night his son was born, Siddhartha left the palace and tried living as a holy man – or ascetic – and followed this life for 6 years. This involved avoiding what the body desires like food and sleep but Siddhartha became close to death and stopped when a girl offered him a bowl of rice.

Siddhartha choose to meditate, believing this might be the way of gaining the knowledge he was looking for. Whilst under the tree he was faced with **many tests** sent by Mara – the force of evil. He sent his daughters to distract him and attacked him with arrows.

Siddhartha **stayed focused on his meditation and he became enlightened to the truth...** that suffering comes from **desire and craving**.



Moses (Judaism and Christianity)



At the time that Moses was born (approx. 1500 BCE) the Jews were **slaves for the Egyptians**. The Pharaoh had ordered that every new born Jewish boy should be killed. To save Moses (who was a Jew), his mother **hid him in a basket and floated it down the River Nile**. Moses was found by the Egyptian Pharaoh's daughter who raised him as an Egyptian prince.

One day, Moses saw an Egyptian beat a Jewish slave to death. **Moses was so upset he killed the Egyptian** and then **fled and hid in the desert** because he was afraid. Whilst in the desert, God spoke to Moses and told him to return to Egypt to free the Jewish slaves from the Pharaoh.

Moses listened to God and returned to Egypt to ask Pharaoh to set the Jewish slaves free. Moses warned that bad things would happen if he did not free the slaves but Pharaoh did not listen. **God sent 10 plagues**. The last plague was the worst. The eldest son in every Egyptian family, including Pharaoh's, died. God had warned Moses to mark the doorposts of all Jewish houses so that their boys would be safe.

Pharaoh was so upset that he let the Jews go but soon changed his mind and **sent his army after them**, chasing them to the banks of the red sea. Then a miracle happened! God told Moses to lift up his rod and as he did so **the waters seperated to make a dry path through the middle of the Red Sea**. The Jews were able to make their escape.

When all the Jews were safe, Moses lifted up his rod again and the waters of the sea closed on Pharaoh's army who had been chasing them. As the sea flooded they were all drowned. **God had saved the Jews**.

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Muhammad (Islam)

Muhammad was born in Mecca about 1500 years ago. When Muhammad was only six years old, **he became an orphan** and went to live with his uncle who was a trader, and Muhammad became a trader too.

As a boy, he was calm and honest and as a man people called upon him to settle fights, as he **was known to be fair and could be trusted**. When he was 25, Muhammad married a 40 year old widow called Khadija. They were married for 25 years until her death and had 6 children together.

Muhammad disliked the bad behaviour he saw in Mecca. **He hated the way that women and the poor were treated badly, plus people gambled and drank too much**. Also some people worshipped lots of gods. He would often spend nights in prayer and one day the angel Gabriel appeared to him and told Muhammad to become a prophet of Allah.

After this Muhammad began to teach others about the word of Allah. He told people in Mecca **to help the poor and orphans, and to worship only one God (Allah)**. Many people were angry about Muhammad's warnings because they did not want to share their wealth or look after the poor and needy. They forced Muhammad and his followers (Muslims) into the desert.

When Muhammad tried to find a new place to live in Madinah, **the Meccans were not happy and tried to kill Muhammad**, but it failed. This led to many battles between the two sides but eventually the Meccans were defeated. **Muhammad returned to Mecca with his followers** and lived in peace. After this many people became Muslim and followed Muhammad's religion called Islam.

The Buddha:

Prophecy— a prediction of what will happen in the future

Ascetic— a person who follows a hard life and rejects what the body usually wants, like sleep and food.

Meditation— training your mind to be calm and focused.

Enlightened— to gain knowledge of how the world truly is.

Moses:

Pharaoh— the king of ancient Egypt.

Plagues— to cause repeated trouble or suffering, such as in the form of sending large amounts of insects or spreading disease.

Miracle— an amazing event that no one can explain and is believed to be caused by God

Muhammad:

Trader— a person who buys and sells goods.

Prophet— a person said to be a messenger (or teacher) of the word of God.

Quran— the holy book in the religion of Islam.

Allah— the name of God in Islam.

Muslims— the followers of the religion of Islam.

