Buddhist Festivals - Wesak & Parinirvana Day

Learning Objectives:

- To analyse specific aspects of Wesak and Parinirvana Day - its symbolism and events.
- To reflect on the importance of both festivals for Buddhosts today.

POWER OF 3

• If these are answers, what are the respective questions?

- I. Thangka
- 2. Immanent
- 3. Liturgical



BUDDHIST FESTIVALS AND RETREATS

Buddhist festivals are usually a time for joy and celebration. They give Buddhists a chance to remember and celebrate the Buddha's life and teaching. They also offer a chance for people to meet and practice together.

Buddhist Retreats are popular in the West.

Many of them give people the opportunity to spend a weekend or week deepening their understanding of Buddhist practice.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Watch this video and write down 5 words which sum up your initial thoughts on Wesak.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E34ubrnWWCo

Can you tell me ...

THE MEANING OF WESAK

- The historical background of the festival,
- The events in the Buddha's life it commemorates,
- When it is celebrated,
- Explanations of the symbolism of gifts given

Complete these sentences in your books:

Wesak celebrates

It is otherwise known as

Buddhists visit their local temples

They will give offerings

The giant lit lanterns symbolise.....

I think Wesak is important to Buddhists because

Try to include all the key terms in the table below



Wesak is the celebration of the Buddhist believe in enlightenment – how can this statement be opposed?

Buddha Day	Birth	Enlightenment
Nirvana	Temple	Offerings
Purify	Respect	Gratitude

BUDDHIST FESTIVALS - PARINIRVANA DAY

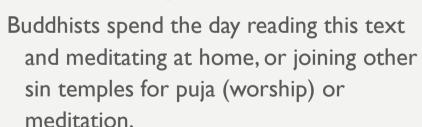
This is a **Mahayana** festival that is celebrated during February to remember the Buddha's passing into parinirvana. It is also known as Nirvana Day.



This festival is more solemn than Wesak as it is a chance for Buddhists to reflect on death, impermanece and mourning lost relatives and friends.

BUDDHIST FESTIVALS — PARINIRVANA DAY

The Mahaparinirvana Sutra is an important Buddhist scripture that describes the Buddha's last days, and passages from it are often read on Parinirvana Day.



Some places will organise <u>retreats</u>.

It is also a traditional day for pilgrimage.



 Religious festivals are just an excuse for people to have a good time – evaluate (12)