



Buddhist Festivals

Start by watching this video about Wesak.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zh4mrj6/articles/zbsp92p>



Wesak is about celebrating the birth of the **Buddha**, which is why it is also known as '**Buddha Day**'.

During the time of Wesak, Buddhists don't exchange gifts like people do at Christmas, Ramadan or Eid. Instead, they give gifts of candles, food and other items to monks in their temples.

A ceremony is conducted called 'bathing the Buddha', where scented water is poured over the shoulders of a statue of the Buddha. This is to remind Buddhists to purify their minds of greed, hatred and ignorance.



Buddhists also make a special effort to help people in need at Wesak.

Task: make your own Wesak lantern, as Buddhist Monks would to hang in their temples.



1. First, fold the piece of card in half lengthways.
2. Carefully, cut 8 slits, starting at the folded edge. Make sure you do not cut all the way to the edge.



3. Open the card out and lay it flat on the table.
4. Decorate it by sticking glitter or sequins or colouring it with pencils or pens.
5. Stick ribbon along the top and bottom edges.



6. Wait for it to dry. Then, bend the card around into a cylinder shape, making sure the decorations are on the outside. Use sticky tape to secure it.



7. Make a handle for the lantern using ribbon secured on opposite sides of the lantern's top edge.

Can you make your own scented water for a Buddhist temple- maybe you could use flowers from a walk or your garden?

