



Religion	Buddhism
Denomination	Soto Zen
Question answered:	How special is your relationship with the Buddha? (KS2 Q1)
Key concepts, questions, and outcomes:	How might beliefs and community shape a person's identity? Describe and explain what motivates and inspires believers and how this can be reflected in actions/practice.
Key teaching points:	Buddhists believe that the Buddha points the way to inner enlightenment, but they do not believe in a God.
Prior knowledge:	Some knowledge about Buddha and the Buddhist practice of meditation

Core Vocabulary:			
<b>Kanzeon</b>	Chinese goddess or symbol of mercy and compassion	<b>Meditation</b>	Thinking deeply and focusing on something, usually a religious topic or text
<b>Buddha</b>	Founder of Buddhism	<b>Enlightenment</b>	Process of gaining knowledge and wisdom, often through meditation

Summary of answers:
<p>The first speaker does not have a direct relationship with the Buddha. But there are helpers to the Buddha, who she can relate to more because they stand for certain things. These characters can help her to focus on a particular state of mind. The Kanzeon Statue for example, reminds her to be kind and compassionate.</p> <p>For the second speaker, the monk, he is completely committed to the Buddha and trying to understand what Buddha is. By Buddha he means not just the historical figure, but the true nature of man. It is not something he is trying to have a relationship with, because it is not separate from who he is. Buddhism teaches that everyone has the nature of Buddha. Meditation is intended to awaken people to an awareness of the true nature that all things are part of. That is the root of compassion, wisdom and love, because when we do anything that goes against the laws of love we are hurting ourselves as well as others. It's not about finding or gaining but realising the nature that is already there.</p>

Next Steps:
<p>Find out about the different ways that Buddhists meditate, especially in other Buddhist traditions. Explore some of the teachings of the Buddha, particularly those that relate to the question of enlightenment.</p> <p>Compare Buddhist meditation with what the pupils have learned about prayer and meditation in other religions and worldviews.</p> <p>Find out about other characters that could be described as the Buddha's helpers and see what characteristics they might inspire in people.</p>