

Lesson at a Glance

- Siddhartha (Gautama), who founded **Buddhism**, was born about, 2500 years ago. He belonged to a 'gana' called the Sakya 'gana'.
- He left his home in search of **knowledge**. He meditated and got enlightened in Bodh Gaya in Bihar. He preached for the first time in Sarnath. He preached of sufferings and unhappiness in life. He taught in the language of the ordinary people, **Prakrit**.
- Other thinkers also wanted to know about life after death and about sacrifices. Their ideas were recorded in the **Upanishads**, part of the later vedic texts.
- Gargi was a woman thinker. Satyakama Jabala was a slave thinker.
- The founder of **Jainism** was **Vardhamana Mahavira**. He was in the Vajji 'sangha'. He also led a life similar to that of Buddha. He said that those who wish to know the truth must leave their homes. He spoke of 'ahimsa'. He taught in Prakrit
- Jainas had to lead very simple lives, begging for food, being honest and men had to shed their clothes. The Jainism teachings were written for the first time about 1500 years ago.
- The rules for the Buddhist 'Sangha' were written down in a book called the **Vinaya Pitaka**.



The stupa at Sarnath

- Monks of Buddhism and Jainism started living in monasteries known at '**Viharas**'. The earliest 'Viharas' were made of wood and then brick.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

Let's Recall

Q. 1. Describe the ways in which the Buddha tried to spread his message to the people.

Ans. The Buddha preached about life being full of suffering and unhappiness. He spoke of 'tanha'—the desire to have more. He taught about 'Karma'—our actions which affect us in the current life and also in the later lives. He taught people to be kind and to respect the lives of others. He used the language of the ordinary people, Prakrit, to talk to them.

Q. 2. Write whether true or false:

- (a) The Buddha encouraged animal sacrifices.
- (b) Sarnath is important because it was the place where the Buddha taught for the first time.
- (c) The Buddha taught that 'Karma' has no effect on our lives.
- (d) The Buddha attained enlightenment at Bodh Gaya.
- (e) Upanishadic thinkers believed that the 'atman' and 'brahman' were ultimately one.

Ans. (a) False, (b) True, (c) False, (d) True, (e) True.

Q. 3. What were the questions that Upanishadic thinkers wanted to answer?

Ans. Upanishadic thinkers wanted to know about life after death. Some wanted to know why sacrifices should be performed. They felt there had to be something permanent in the universe that lasted even after death. Their ideas are recorded in the Upanishads.

Q. 4. What were the main teachings of the Mahavira?

Ans. Mahavira taught a simple doctrine: men and women who wish to know the truth must leave their homes. Mahavira told them to follow 'ahimsa'—not hurting any living being.

Let's Discuss

Q. 5. Why do you think Anagha's mother wanted her to know the story of the Buddha?

Ans. Buddha was the founder of Buddhism and he was the 'Wise One'. His stories could be inspirational and motivational to students. So Anagha's mother wanted her to know his story.

Q. 6. Do you think it would have been easy for slaves to join the 'sangha'? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans. Slaves were allowed to join 'sanghas'. Those who followed Buddhism did not believe in dividing the society and Buddha taught that all humans are equal.

Let's Do

Q. 7. Make a List of at least five ideas and questions mentioned in this lesson. Choose three from the List and discuss why you think they are important even today.

Ans. **Ideas and questions mentioned in the lesson and their relevance today**

- Life is full of suffering and unhappiness. It is due to our unfulfilled desires. This is true today since most people are not satisfied with what they have. They resort to unfair means out of greed and end up in suffering and trouble.
- Our actions ('Karma') affect us in our current life as well as next life.
- We should not hurt or kill any living being, according to Mahavira. This is important because every living being has a desire to live.
- Thinkers wanted to know about life after death and they wanted to know why sacrifices should be performed. Sacrifices are not justified since living being should be killed.
- Upanishadic thinkers also felt that something was permanent in the universe and it lasted even after death.

Q. 8. Find out more about men and women who renounce the world today. Where do they live, what kinds of clothes do they wear, what do they eat? Why do they renounce the world?

Ans. Prepare the answer with the help of your subject teacher.