

1. What events led Siddhartha to leave the palace and seek answers to the "pain of existence"?

The events that led Siddhartha out of the palace was he was curious to see what life was like outside of the palace and then he saw an old man and then realized that he's going to get old. Then he saw a man that was very sick and learned that anyone including himself can get illness and then he saw a dead body and realized that everyone dies. When he came across a wandering ascetic who gave up his comfortable and materialistic life in order to achieve enlightenment.

2. What challenges did he face in his quest to find enlightenment?

The challenges that Siddhartha faced in order to find enlightenment was temptation to have wealth, sensual pleasure, and power. He also faced doubt and struggled physically because he was pushing his body to the limit. His body was tired, hungry, and needed water and the last obstacle that he faced that came between his goal was external opposition.

3. Describe "the Middle Way" of peace and harmony he sought.

The middle way is also called the eight fold path, it is a central concept in Buddhism and it represents the path to receiving enlightenment. The Middle way also represents the balance between the extremes of self-indulgence and self-mortification. It is the understanding that materialistic things, cravings, and earthly pleasures are the root cause of suffering. It emphasizes the importance of cultivating a balanced and mindful approach to life avoiding both the extremes of indulgence and ascetism.