

1. What events led Siddhartha to leave the palace and seek answers to the "pain of existence"?
  - a. At 9, Siddhartha was allowed to see the planning festival with people outside the courtyard. Siddhartha was able to observe people having to labor. This is where he identifies his first Jhana. When Siddhartha turned 16, his father gave him a wife, yet he continued to pester his father to leave the palace. Siddhartha was allowed to go on a journey and went through some villages and was able to see the daily life of those not associated with the palace. With this, he encounters old age, disease, and death. The fourth sign he sees is a beggar who has renounced money to experience and understand the pain of existence. When he returns from this trip, he escapes from the palace.
2. What challenges did he face in his quest to find enlightenment?
  - a. Siddhartha had to address the Brahman tradition at the time, which was the dominant way of thinking and religion at the time. He sought out the best meditators of the time and aimed to learn from those considered the best, to reach new planes of consciousness. When these did not provide answers to reincarnation and pain and suffering. He fasted for a very long time, yet when he was about to die, he abandoned his fast. Siddhartha realized that if he died, his work would have been for nothing.
3. Describe "the Middle Way" of peace and harmony he sought.
  - a. This concept begins when Siddhartha observed a man tuning his instrument. He observed that when the string was too tight or too slack, the instrument would not play. In this area where the string was perfect to play, he identified it as the

“Middle Way.” The area that exists in between too far and too short, too hot and too cold, too fast or too quick, that is called the “Middle Way”