

# The boyhood of Siddhartha

## TEACHER'S NOTES

### Discuss before working online

#### Suffering

Siddhartha's father tried to shield him from all the unpleasant things in life.

- Do you think that will be possible to avoid all suffering and unhappiness in your life? Why?
- What things in life cause us to suffer or be unhappy?
- Have you ever met someone you admired and wanted to be like?

#### Turning points

Siddhartha saw the Four Sights and felt that he could not ignore the questions they raised. Sometimes we see, or experience, events that make us stop and think: illness, bereavement and loss, for example.

- Can you remember such an event?
- What was it that made you stop and think?
- What did you do as a result?

### Online video clip: 5.5 mins

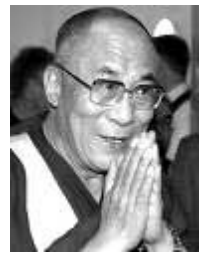
### Suggested activities

1. Imagine you are Siddhartha. Using pictures from newspapers and magazines, or drawing your own pictures, make a poster of the Four Sights as you see them today, where you live or in other parts of the world. Explain to the class, or write about, how you feel seeing these things.

2. Write a short play about Siddhartha and Chanda the charioteer seeing the Four Sights. In the last scene, show Chanda and a friend talking about happened, what Chanda thought about it and what he thought was on Siddhartha's mind as they returned home. Perform your plays to each other in class or assembly.

3. The fourth person Siddhartha met had a strong effect on him. Imagine you are Siddhartha, writing your diary after you've met this person. Write about what the wise man looked like, how he behaved and how you felt being with him. **Or** imagine you personally met a wise woman or man near where you live, and write about that. How did you know they were wise?

4. **Webquest** Many people think the Dalai Lama is a great leader *and* a wise holy man. He is a Buddhist monk. Using the internet or books, find out about him and make a wall display or a PowerPoint presentation. Explain who he is, what kind of person



he seems to be, what he wants and what he is doing (and not doing) to achieve his goal. Not all his people agree with his approach. What do you think?

**Webquest sites appear online.**

*If you want others to be happy, practise compassion. If you want to be happy, practise compassion.*

***His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama***