

LBUDDHIST TEMPLE

A. Say the name of your temple (Pages I-1, I-2, I-3, I-4, I-5, I-6)

Do the following:

_____ 1. Make a diagram of your temple, show the main parts.

Name of your temple: _____

_____ 2. Write a short history of your temple and share it with your class.

Date: _____

_____ 3. Write why you are grateful for your temple.

B. Identify the main parts of your temple (columbarium, social hall, altar, etc.)

Do the following:

_____ 1. Take a tour of your temple with your minister or teacher. (B-1a)

Name of tour guide: _____

What are the main parts:

C. Identify the minister(s) of your temple.

Do the following:

_____ 1. Take photos of the minister(s) of your temple and write a brief background of each. Display in your class. Minister's Name: _____

_____ 2. Visit another temple and compare it with your temple: _____

What are some differences? Share with your classmates. (CS-8; J-2a)

REFLECTION: My Temple is a special place because...

I. OUR BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Our temple is a place that has been made especially for
out use. It is a place of deep feelings and

_____.

At temple, we feel close to _____. Temples may
look different but all show our _____ and
respect to Amida Buddha.

The temple I attend is _____.
We are grateful we have _____ School at our
temple, where I learn about Amida Buddha.

The ministers help guide us. Our Ministers are:



Our Temple

Our temple is a place that has been built especially for our use. In many ways, it is like a second home because we are always welcome, and without us, it would not be a happy place.

Our temple is a place of worship. At the temple, we learn about the Amida and offer our respects, and thanks.

When we stop to consider the many people who have worked to build a place for us to gather so we can hear the teachings of Amida Buddha, we are grateful. Our feeling of gratitude can be expressed in the Nembutsu.

Our Temple

Purpose:

To learn how the Buddhist Temple came to be and what it stands for.

Materials:

Lesson sheet to be passed out to boys and girls as written below.

Worksheet.

(Verbal introduction to the reading material). Inside the temple there are many beautiful reminders of the Buddha and his teachings, but before anything could be put inside, the temple had to be built, didn't it? In our lesson sheet for today we will learn how some of our temples here in America came to be.

The temple is the home where we learn and appreciate Amida Buddha. Many people helped to make it possible for us to have our temple.

Long ago in America, when there were only a few Buddhists, there was no place for them to meet together. However, they did not forget the Buddha or his teachings. Most Buddhists had something at home to remind them of the Buddha. In some cases, it was an ojuzu or a small shrine. In other cases, it was a book on the Buddha's teachings.

As the years went by, there were more Buddhists. It was their fond hope to build a large place where people could come and learn together about Buddhism.

They spent many hours talking about how the temple should look and what it should have. Many faithful Buddhists offered financial assistance.

When the temple was completed, it was a monumental accomplishment. Here, indeed, was a place each Buddhist could call home. Here was a place where people could come find peace and quiet.

Gratitude For Our Temple

Purpose:

1. To learn that there are many Buddhist temples in America. They are different in size and the number of people who attend, but all who go there believe in Amida Buddha and feel thankful for his love.
2. To be thankful that we have temples we can attend to learn about Amida Buddha.

Materials:

Lesson Sheet
Large paper for each child to draw the temple
Crayons

Presentation:

Read the sentences on the lesson sheet with the children.
Discuss the sentences with the children.
Have the children draw a picture of their own temple.
Staple lesson sheet to child's drawing.

To find out more about other Buddhist temples in America, the children might send drawings of their own temple to other Buddhist Dharma Schools and ask those students to send a drawing of their temple.

Discuss how we would feel if we moved and attended another temple. Welcome new students to the class.

Lesson Sheet

(Staple this lesson sheet to each child's drawing)

There are many Buddhist temples in America. There are big temples and little ones.

Although each temple may look different, each temple was built for the same purpose. Each temple was built to show love and respect to the Buddha.

I am grateful for my temple and my Dharma School, where I can learn about Amida Buddha.

This is the temple I attend _____

Though our temples look different, we are grateful we have a Dharma School where we can learn about Amida Buddha.

This is my Temple:

(The Name of My Temple)

Draw a diagram of our Temple showing the main parts.