

'Vesak is an important festival'

Here are a number of reasons why a Theravada Buddhist believes Vesak is an important festival. Using the Diamond Nine grid, rank them from which you think is the most significant reason to least significant reason. Explain your choices.



<p>The festival allows us to spend time with our family and gives us a sense of belonging through sharing it with the rest of the sangha.</p>	<p>As Theravada Buddhists we hoist the Buddhists flag and sing hymns about the Three Jewels. This keeps us mindful of the importance of the Three Jewels.</p>	<p>We perform acts of charity or service on Vesak in order to help those less fortunate. We may also offer food to those who stay at the temple during Vesak.</p>
<p>I live in North India and the festival is our way of remembering the birth of the Buddha, his becoming the Buddha and his Parinirvana at 80.</p>	<p>As Mahayana Buddhists we only remember the Birthday of the Buddha, which usually coincides with Vesak.</p>	<p>As Theravada Buddhists we lay candles and flowers at the feet of a statue of the Buddha. This reminds us that all things decay and are impermanent.</p>
<p>As the Buddha did not want to be worshipped, Vesak acts as a way to remind us that the true way to venerate him is to follow his teachings.</p>	<p>In Thailand, as part of the celebration we decorate a statue of the Buddha and circumambulate the local monastery three times to symbolise the Three Jewels.</p>	<p>The ceremonies enable us to conform to and strengthen our faith; it helps us perform our daily duties.</p>

Extension: Buddhists in Britain also celebrate Vesak. Find out what British Buddhists do to celebrate Vesak using the Internet. Draw a table to show the similarities and differences in the way this festival is celebrated in India and in Britain.

Diamond Nine

Cut out and glue the arguments
arranging them from most significant
to least significant.

Most

Challenge Yourself!

Arrange the arguments according to
which you think a **religious devotee**
would say was the most significant to
least significant. Explain your choices.

Least