

Puja Pairs!

Cut out the boxes and challenge your classmate to a game of pairs!

There are a number of reasons why puja items are important - they correspond to an item one would expect to find at a Buddhist shrine. Can you figure them out once they have been mixed up?

A statue of the Buddha	The picture is not 'worshipped' but reminds a follower of Buddha-nature that they wish to reveal in themselves.	Candle	The candle will light up the shrine and is a sign of enlightenment.	Fruit	It symbolises the interdependent nature of all things on this earth.
Mala Beads	These are used to keep count while reciting, chanting or mentally repeating a mantra.	Flowers	These signify the impermanence of life (anicca) and once dead, they produce seeds symbolic of Samsara.	Incense	This is used to purify the air. This symbolises the Dhamma, the law of life that spreads through the universe.
Water	Water is vital for life and so it is a precious commodity. The water symbolises the respect worshippers should have for life.	Bell	Shows the start and end of puja. It is also symbolic of karma, cause and effect. The harder it is hit, the louder it rings.	Photographs of leaders or families.	This allows the worshipper to focus on spreading loving-kindness to these people.

Extension Tasks:

1. While playing the game discuss, with your opponent, if the item could be symbolic in any other way.
2. Complete the diamond 9 activity based on the 9 items you would find at a shrine.
3. Research the similarities and differences between a Mahayana and a Theravada shrine. Make a table to show your results.
4. Check out these two videos – Buddhist worship (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zhkpvw>) and a Christian worship (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zx497ty>). Complete the Venn diagram at the bottom of the page to compare and contrast the different forms of worship and items used during worship.
5. "Worship is not necessary for spiritual attainment." Evaluate this statement showing more than one point of view – you could refer to both Christian and Buddhist practices to support your arguments.

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

The similarities and differences between a Buddhist worship and Christian Worship.

