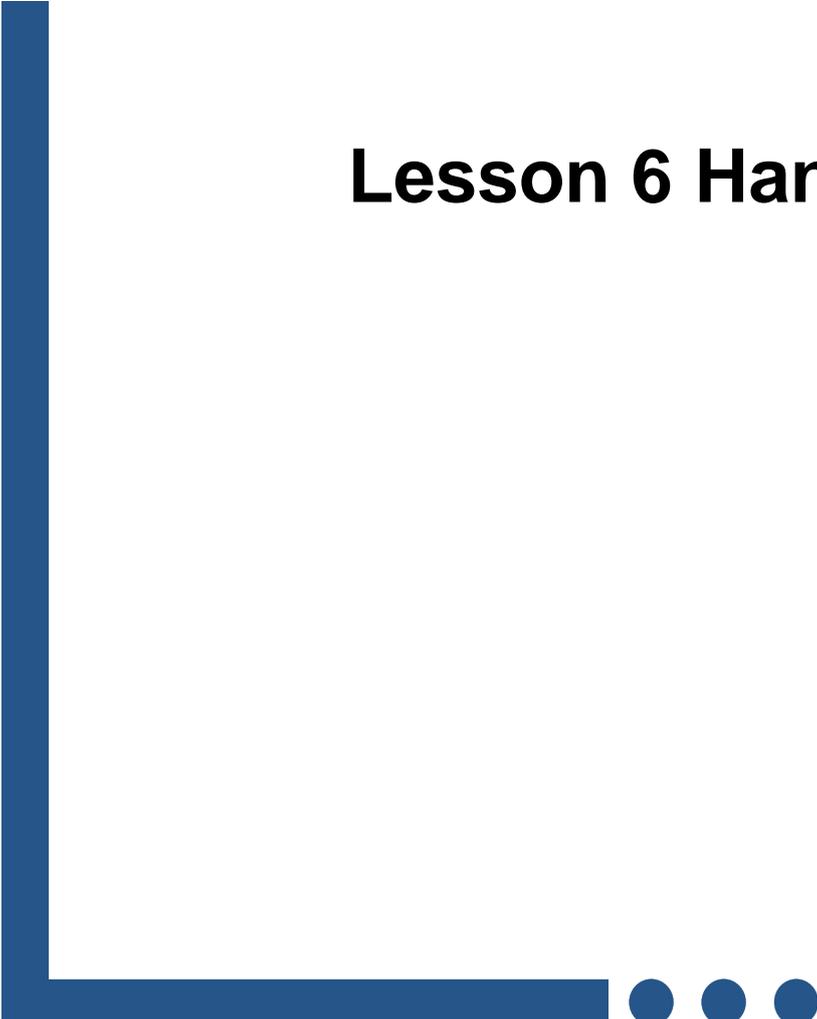




University Learning in Schools

RE

Buddhists in the World



Lesson 6 Handouts

Sheet 6a

Another look at begging

Read the following extract and answer these questions:

These Theravadin monks have been in trouble for their behaviour. Did they obtain the items that they have through begging?

Why have the monks been reprimanded for indulging in these luxuries?

Buddhists Behaving Badly

(Nicole Le Marie for *Metro* Monday 17 Jun 2013 10:02 pm)

Staring confidently at the camera from behind designer sunglasses, these Buddhist monks have left the path to enlightenment 9,000m (30,000ft) below them. Relaxing in deep leather chairs in a private jet, they've clearly reached a higher plane than the rest of us.

However, the presence of a Louis Vuitton travel bag just out of shot suggests they have more earthly appetites to satisfy. The YouTube film clip, which emerged earlier this year, has led to a clampdown by Thailand's Office of National Buddhism. The jet-setters come from the Khantitham Temple in Sisaket province, but it is not clear why they were on the jet or where they were going.

'We can explain this, but not now,' said a spokeswoman. She said the office had warned the errant monks not to repeat their behaviour.

She did confirm that an abbot, who appears in the video, is currently on a 'religious' tour in France. Last year, about 300 out of 61,416 Buddhist monks and novices in Thailand were reprimanded, and in several cases ejected, from monasteries over misconduct. Their crimes included drinking alcohol, having sex with women and extortion. Thailand has the world's largest Buddhist population and has attempted to ensure Buddha's 2,600-year-old doctrine is upheld through a ban on the sale of alcohol.

Sheet 6b

Geography and the Buddhist monastery

This task asks you to consider whether the locations of Buddhist monasteries in Ancient India are suitable for begging. The maps display the locations of a series of rock-cut monasteries in the Western Ghats region of western India. Monastic communities lived in these monasteries around 2000 years ago, a few hundred years after the Buddha lived.

The settlement was where the laity lived and where monks would have to travel to go begging.

Which monasteries were more secluded? Would begging be easier if the monasteries were closer to or further away from the settlements?

One copy of each map provided here should be shared between two pupils.

Pairs can answer the questions provided on the maps and report back to class.

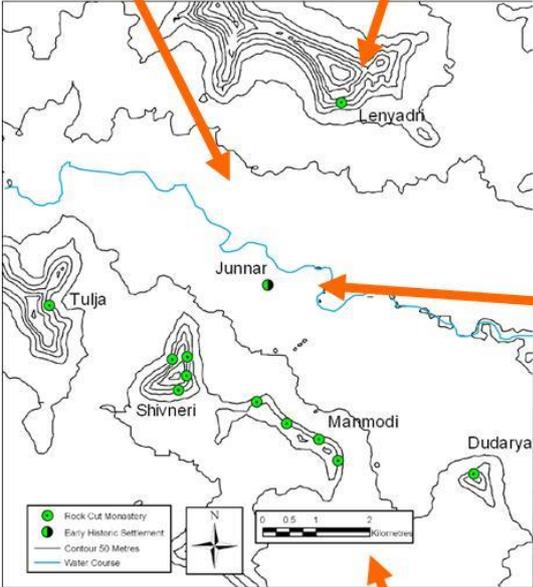
Monastery and Settlement Map

Would it be difficult to travel to the settlement?

Where are the monasteries positioned on the hillside?

Where is this settlement in relation to the monasteries?

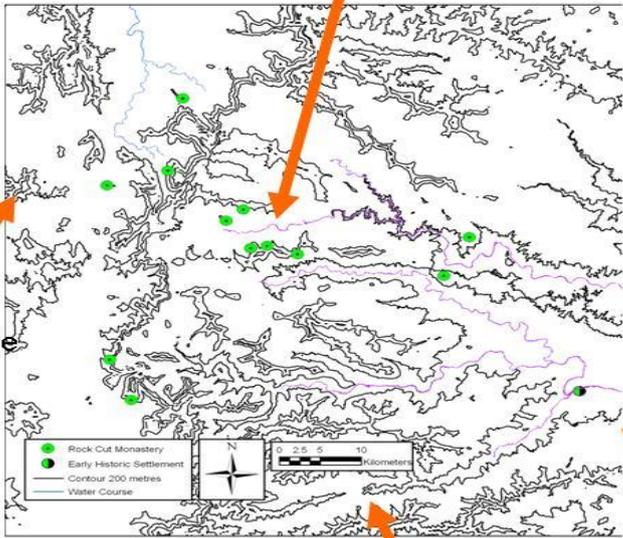
How does the scale compare to the other map?



Monastery and Settlement Map 2

What geographical features are the monasteries clustered near?

What might be off the side of the map?



Where is this settlement in relation to the monasteries?

How does the scale compare to the other map?

Activity Sheet 6c

Activity 5: Case study of Buddhist orphanage.

The activity examines an important service that Buddhist monasteries provide for the laity: caring for orphans. This case study is of an orphanage in Malawi. Watch the following video and answer the questions in a sentence each:

Are the teachers Buddhist? Why do Buddhist teachers help the children?

The children will leave the monastery when they grow up. How might this benefit the wider community?

Why do the children learn Chinese?

Who helps the children?

Why do the Buddhists work for this charitable cause?