


Challenge

Hot Topics


▲ The giant Buddha on Lantau Island.

B UDDHA'S birthday falls on the eighth day of the fourth month in the lunar calendar. It will be 12 May this year. Let's take the quiz and learn more about the key figure of **Buddhism**.

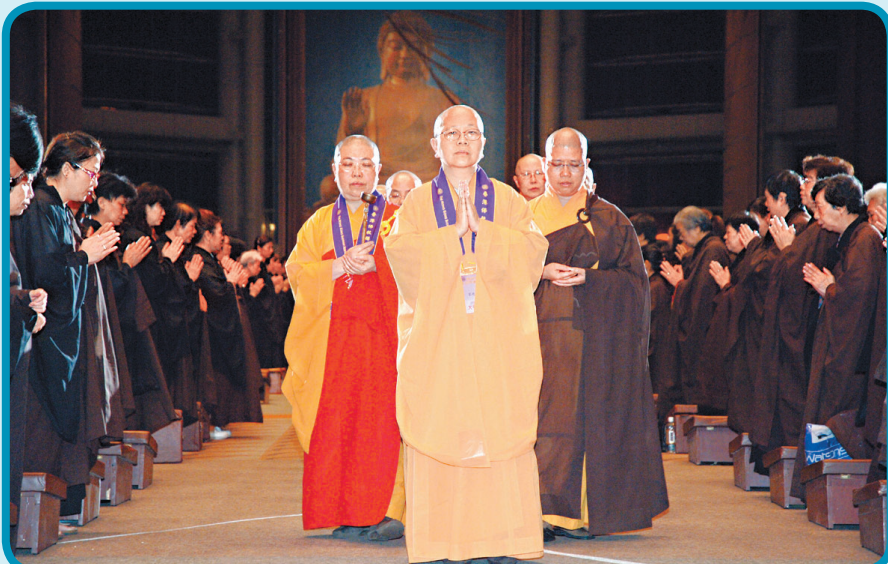
Buddha, the spiritual leader



Q1 Spot the wrong one

ONE of the following statements about Gautama Buddha is wrong. Spot it.

- ① Siddhartha Gautama was a **merchant**. He later became the Gautama Buddha, the **spiritual** leader of Buddhism.
- ② Siddhartha Gautama left home and became a **monk** at the age of 29.
- ③ Siddhartha Gautama left home because he wanted to know the **truth** of life.
- ④ Gautama **attained enlightenment** under a **Bodhi tree** and became the Gautama Buddha.



▲ Religious ceremonies are held every year to celebrate Buddha's birthday.



Q2 Ceremony

TO celebrate Buddha's birthday, the Hong Kong Buddhist Association hosts a ceremony every year. Can you tell the custom of the ceremony showing in the picture?

- ☐ A Bathing the Buddha.
- ☐ B Washing the Buddha.
- ☐ C Cleaning the Buddha.



Q3 How old is Buddha?

THERE is a minor difference between Northern and Southern traditions concerning the dates of the birth and death of the Buddha. Southern Buddhists accept the year 544 B.C. as the year of his death. It was ____ years ago.

What is the missing number? Play the game and find the answers.



			2000
			2008
			2552

Useful link

The Hong Kong Buddhist Association
<http://www.hkbuddhist.org/>

Answers: Q1. 1, Siddhartha Gautama was a prince instead of a merchant; Q2. A; Q3. 2552.

Vocabulary

Buddhism (n) 佛教
merchant (n) 商人

spiritual (adj) 精神的
monk (n) 僧人

truth (n) 真理
attain (v) 達到

enlightenment (n) 啟蒙
Bodhi tree (n) 菩提樹