

Representations of Buddha:



Footprints of the Buddha:

1. Why might the wheel serve as an effective symbol of the Buddha's message?
2. What overall religious message might this footprint convey to those who gazed upon it?

A Classic Indian Buddha:

3. What might account for the emergence of human images of the Buddha?
4. What overall impression or religious meaning is this statue intended to convey?

A Bodhisattva of Compassion: Kannon of 1,000 Arms:

5. To whom might such an image appeal? And why?
6. Some scholars have identified similarities between the Bodhisattva of Compassion and the Virgin Mary in the Christian tradition. What common elements and what differences do you see?

The Chinese Maitreya Buddha:

7. How does this Buddha differ, both physically and in its religious implications, from the Buddhas in the other pictures?
8. Why might this image be appealing to some Buddhists, and why might others take exception to it?

The Amitabha Buddha:

9. Why do you think the practice of Pure Land Buddhism became so widely popular in China by the mid-seventh century? What features of this image might help to explain its appeal?
10. What details from this painting support the sacred character of the Buddha and bodhisattva figures?