

NAME _____

DATE _____

Performance Task – Contextualization: Expansion and Cultural Change

In the first activity, you will watch Bridging World History, Unit 7: The Spread of Religions, 0:00-9:30 and complete a table to examine how Buddhism adapted to local cultural traditions and beliefs, as well as the impact pilgrims had on Buddhism's spread. This task will help you understand the spread of Buddhism, as well as ways Buddhism was adapted and assimilated. In the second activity, you will consult a Wikipedia entry on Buddhist Art (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhist_art) to look for variations in regional Buddhist art and what influenced those differences.

Goal of task

Target Concept: I can explain how and why Buddhism changed as it expanded and adapted in the context of local institutions and cultural beliefs.

For this task you will be evaluated on your ability to:

- Identify the geographic spread of Buddhism from its origins through the 8th century CE
- Examine the ways in which Buddhism adapted to and assimilated local religious beliefs and cultural traditions as it spread.
- Analyze the role that pilgrims played in spreading Buddhism and shaping its adjustment to local religious beliefs and cultural traditions.
- Examine the ways in which Buddhist art was shaped by both local and outside influences.

Task summary

You will complete two activities that help you build your knowledge on how Buddhism affected and interacted with local cultural traditions and beliefs and the impact that pilgrims had on its growth.. You will also look for variations in regional Buddhist art and what influenced those variations.

Task 1: Buddhism Video and Study Guide

1. Watch *Bridging World History*, Unit 7: The Spread of Religions, from 1:40-9:30 (http://www.learner.org/courses/worldhistory/unit_main_7.html). This video can be accessed by clicking the “VOD-View the Video Online” link on the left column of the webpage. Complete the table below after watching the video:

	Context and Conditions	Methods of Conversion	Key actors in spread of religion
Place of Origin: Northern India			
China			
Korea and Japan			

Check your understanding

Looking back over your responses to the video study guide questions, check to make sure you can answer the following questions:

- Where did Buddhism spread from its origins in northern India through the 8th century C.E.?
- How did Buddhism attempt to accommodate and assimilate local beliefs and traditions as it spread into new regions?
- What role did pilgrims play in the spread of Buddhism and its adaptation to local regions?

Task 2: Buddhist Art Across Asia (In groups)

Examine changes in artistic practices that took shape as Buddhism spread from India (South Asia) into the regions of Central Asia, East Asia, and Southeast Asia. Your teacher will divide the class into groups and use a Wikipedia page on Buddhist Art (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhist_art) as a launching point for this investigation. Each group will fill out a portion of a graphic organizer and share its findings with the rest of the class.

Graphic Organizer for Buddhist Art Across Asia

Region	Description of Art Forms	Influences Both Local and Abroad	Image of Example
SOUTH ASIA			
South Asia (India) (May Include Pre-Icnic and Iconic Phases)			
CENTRAL ASIA			
Central Asia			
Afghanistan			
EAST ASIA			
China (Specify Dynastic Influence)			
Korea (Specify Kingdom or Dynasty)			
Japan			
Tibet and Bhutan			
SOUTHEAST ASIA			
Vietnam			
Sri Lanka (Could also be Included in South Asia)			
Myanmar			
Cambodia			
Thailand			
Indonesia			

Check your understanding

Looking back over your responses to the chart, check to make sure you can answer the following questions:

- How was local Buddhist art shaped by local culture and traditions?
- How was local Buddhist art shaped by outside influences and traditions?
- What evidence is there of expanding networks of exchange based on the ways in which Buddhist art is shaped by both local culture and outside influences?