



# The Buddha's life story in 10 steps

*(This is not a traditional rendition of the Buddha's life in steps. It is made for you to act out or draw the Buddha's story with children in a comprehensive way. If you are interested in the traditional version you can also use the images and descriptions in the document: "Life of the Buddha in photos and texts" on the [Life of the Buddha topic page](#).)*

## 1. Birth of the Buddha

Siddhartha was born 2500 years ago. His first steps on earth made lotus flowers bloom out of his footsteps.

## 2. The Prediction

- A prediction said that Siddhartha would either become a great ruler, or a great sage.

## 3. His life as a prince (can be 2 tableaus)

- He grew up in a noble family in Northern India. He grew up in a palace surrounded by luxury. His father wanted to keep him away from all unpleasant things. He was not allowed to leave the palace.
- He was married to Princess Yashodara and they had a son.

## 4. The Four Sights (can be multiple tableaus)

- Siddhartha left the palace one day to go into the town.
- He saw old age.
- He saw sickness.
- He saw death.
- And he also met a "seeker of truth," a wandering yogi.

## 5. Leaving the palace and Austerities

- He wondered why there is old age, sickness, and death. To find an answer, he left the palace for good and became a wandering "seeker of truth."
- For seven years he lived as a wandering seeker of truth: He encountered many religious teachers, became an ascetic and still couldn't find answers to his questions.

## 6. Overcoming Mara's Hosts

- When he sat down underneath a Bodhi tree, he started to meditate.
- Siddhartha conquered Mara's hosts by transforming their weapons into flowers.



### **7. Enlightenment**

- Finally, he reached his goal; he found answers to all of his questions and reached enlightenment, he had become a buddha.

### **9. The turnings of the wheel of dharma**

- Buddha started teaching in different places in India
- He gathered many followers.

### **10. Buddha passing into parinirvana**

- Buddha passed away at the age of 80 surrounded by his followers.
- Through the act of dying he was teaching impermanence one last time.