



Tradition	Buddhist
Denomination	Soto Zen
Question answered:	What symbols are important to you? (KS1 Q 1)
Key Concepts, questions, and outcomes:	Symbols, communication, God, beliefs, sacred, worship Why do symbols and stories play important roles in religions? Pupils can make links between the symbols and the core beliefs of Buddhism
Key teaching points:	Symbols act as a reminder of the key beliefs of Buddhism
Prior knowledge:	A range of symbols used in society and religions.

Core Vocabulary:			
Lotus	A white flower that grows in the mud in flowing water	Figurines	Small figures representing characters important in Buddhism
Lotus sceptre	An artefact shaped like the stalk of a lotus flower	Buddha	The founder of Buddhism
Enlightenment	Process of gaining knowledge and wisdom, often through meditation	Altar	A place where sacred objects are placed
Spine	Backbone of a person	Ceremonial	Formal act of worship, usually with set prayers or movements.

Summary of answers:
<p>The first speaker is a Buddhist monk. He refers to the ceremonies he conducts, while holding a lotus sceptre. This artefact, with its straight stem, reminds him of the lotus flower, which is also a Buddhist symbol. Holding the sceptre reminds him that his life should be upright, good and full of compassion. The lotus flower, which grows in the mud, symbolises that humans can grow tall and straight from the hardship and dirt of daily life. The flower represents enlightenment and people can grow themselves into something beautiful.</p> <p>The second speaker talks about the figures of the Buddha which she has. The small one is used for travelling, so that wherever she is she can look at it and be reminded of the need to be kind and caring to all the people she meets. The larger head of the Buddha is kept in her bedroom, where it is a constant reminder of the peace and serenity that comes from following the Buddha.</p>

Next Steps:
<p>Explore a range of other symbols used in a range of religions, and suggest what they may be communicating,</p> <p>Find out if there are other Buddhist symbols and what they might mean.</p> <p>Find out some facts about the life of the Buddha.</p> <p>Find more pictures of lotus sceptres.</p> <p>Talk about symbols or artefacts that are important to the pupils.</p>