World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

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World Religion: Buddhism   **Teaching Module Title:** The Buddha: History and Image

Teaching Module Goals:

1. Discuss the origins, growth and imagery associated with the Buddha and Buddhism.
2. Familiarize students with symbols, stories and worship of over 500 million Buddhists worldwide.
3. Reflection and class discussions on contemporary Buddhist practices in the United States.

Assigned Reading and Video:

1. John Bowker, *World Religions*, "The Buddha Image", emphasis on pages 64-65
2. *Beliefs Made Visible: Buddhist Art in South Asia* (Part II), 20 minutes:
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jl6S0wdeWk4

Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. Why was the Buddha not represented in the early years of Buddhism and what were some alternative symbols of the faith (pg. 64 & video)?
2. Who is Mucalinda and what are his attributes (pg. 64)?
3. What is the stupa and the significance of the Buddhist shrine (video)?
4. What are some of the attributes and gestures of the Buddha (pg. 65 & 11:00 video)?
5. Why are the Buddha's earlobes represented as distended (13:25 video)?

Seated Buddha
Indianapolis Museum of Art
Ming dynasty
1551 C.E.
Bronze with Lacquer
10.5 inches tall