# Title: Buddhist Views on Suffering

**Key Questions:** what examples of suffering have we seen recently? What examples of suffering have we seen or experienced recently?

**Key Concepts:** Suffering, the problem of evil and suffering, illusion, God’s will, free will.

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| **Learning objectives** | **Activities** | **Resources** |
| LO: To consider how Buddhists respond to suffering and if students agree with this different approach or not. | In pairs discuss:  What do you think causes suffering?  Do you ever think you cause yourself to suffer? Why?  Read the story of Kisa Gotami and the Mustard Seed.  What does this teach Buddhists about suffering and its causes?  Explain to students the Four Noble Truths.  What do these teach Buddhist about the cause of suffering?  Now look at the solution – the Eightfold Path.  Design poster for a Buddhist to remind them about the causes and the solution to suffering.  In groups as students to discuss:  Do you find this idea helpful?  Do you think it works for all types of suffering?  Would it answer the question “Why am I suffering from cancer?”  Listen to these responses to the question from Buddhists. Do you agree with them? Why/Why not? | The Author found Religion in the World (from the Religion for Today series) by Chris Wright useful for this lesson.  <https://www.turningwheel.org.uk/buddhist_stories/kisa-gotami-and-the-mustard-seed/>  <http://www.clear-vision.org/Schools/Students/Ages-12-14/Four-noble-truths.aspx>  <http://www.clear-vision.org/Schools/Students/Ages-12-14/Noble-Eightfold-Path.aspx>  <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/znxpr82/revision/2>  <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/znxpr82/revision/3>  The Arts Society, Birmingham, has made films, richly illustrated print resources and activities for KS3, available free of charge.  School Visits to Places of Worship in Birmingham  <https://birmingham-faith-visits.theartssociety.org/buddhism>  <http://www.clear-vision.org/Schools/Ask-a-Buddhist/buddhist-teachings/suffering-craving.aspx> |