

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama



Biography

His Holiness the 14th Dalai **Lama**, Tenzin Gyatso , was born to a farming family in the small village in northeastern Tibet. Upon his recognition as the **reincarnation** of the Buddha of Compassion, he began his instruction in Buddhist philosophy and was installed as the spiritual leader of Tibet in 1940. In 1950, he was called upon to take his place as the Head of State. Tibet's historically strained relationship with China reached a apex in 1959, when he was forced into **exile**, moving himself and his government to Dharamsala, India. Since his expulsion, the Dalai Lama has continued to lead his country, adapting a democratic constitution, and speak out against violence and for peace.

Since 1959 His Holiness has received over 84 awards, honorary doctorates, prizes, etc., in recognition of his message of peace, **non-violence**, and compassion. His Holiness has also authored more than 72 books. In 1989, His Holiness received the Nobel Peace Prize for his non-violent struggle for the **liberation** of Tibet.

Vocabulary

- **Lama** - The title of a Tibetan teacher, similar to the term *guru*.
- **Non-violence** - philosophy that we can bring about change without violence
- **reincarnation** - the belief that when a living being dies, its soul is born again in the body of another.
- **exile**- a forced separation from one's home
- **liberation**- the act of becoming free or the act of gaining equal rights for a particular group.

Activity I

What kind of leader is His Holiness the Dalai Lama hold in the Tibetan Government?

1. Spiritual
2. Political
3. None
4. Both spiritual and political

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Activity II– for the answers to these questions, you might want to check out the Dalai Lama’s website, www.dalailama.com.

How many incarnations of the Dalai Lama have there been?

Explain how the pictures below connect with His Holiness the Dalai Lama.



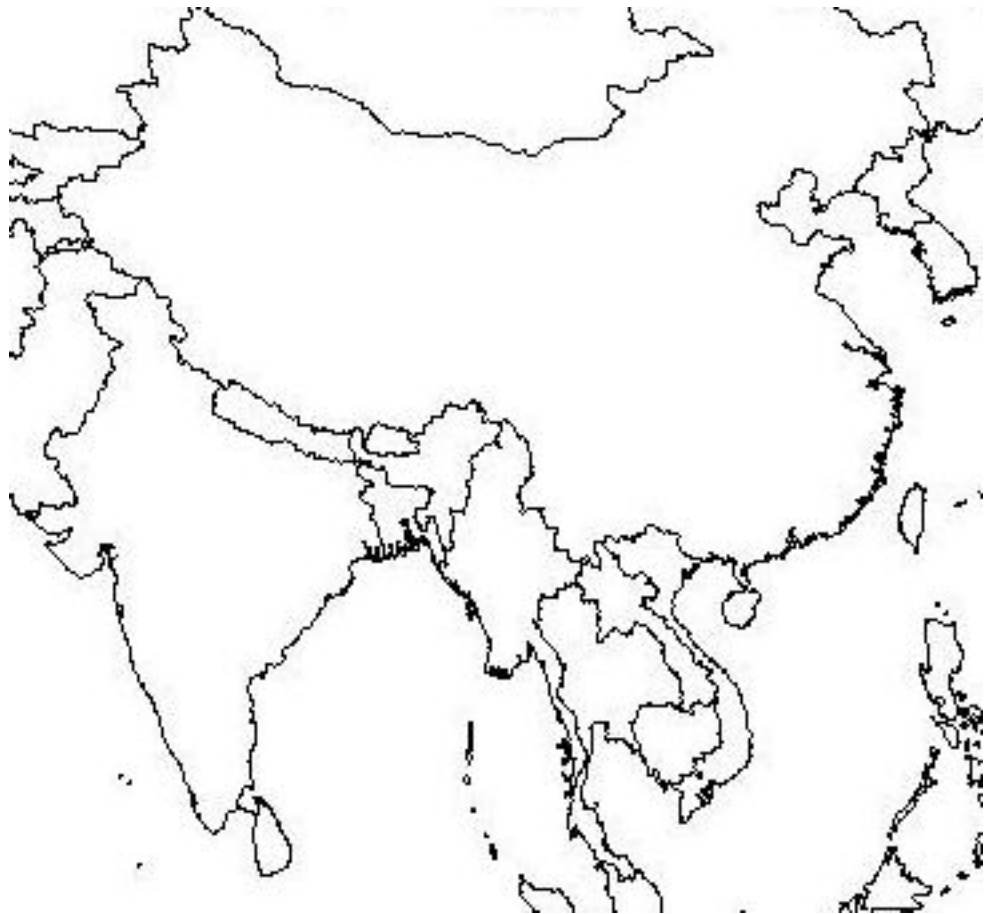
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Activity III

Use the blank map of Asia to color India blue, Tibet green, and China red. Then write a short statement explaining the connection of these three nations to the Dalai Lama.



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Answer Sheet

Activity I:

Answer: 4.

Activity II:

1. Answer: Fourteen

2. Possible Answers:

1. The flag of the People's Republic of China. Chinese government believes it has claims to Tibet.

2. A Tibetan Buddha, the Dalai Lama is the spiritual leader of Tibet, whose religion is Buddhism

3. A Buddhist monk's robes. The Dalai Lama is technically a monk, and he always is dressed in these traditional clothes.

4. The Tibetan flag.

Activity III:

Answer found: http://www.voyagesphotosmanu.com/Compleet/images/map_india.gif

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