Asoka

Preview Question: What do you remember about the teachings/beliefs of Buddhism?

Preached non-violence; tolerance; acceptance and equality for all people

1. What did “Asoka the Cruel” do to those who went against his rule?

Sent to prison called “Hell on Earth” where they were tortured

2. How did the Mauryan war of aggression against Kalinga effect Asoka and what changes personal changes does he make as a result?

Feels remorse and regret for all of the death and suffering; Asoka converts to Buddhism and pledges to rule India through non-violence

3. The Edicts of Asoka centered on his main beliefs that, “All humans are one family”, and “All men are my children.”

4. Why did Asoka believe that a person’s true nature was revealed by how they treated animals?

If you are cruel to animals you will be cruel to humans; Animals are powerless and cannot do anything back to you; your true self comes out because you can treat them however you want without fear of retaliation

5. What did Asoka insist be tolerated in India?

All religions

6. Asoka reached out to the other leaders of the world because he wanted the ideas of non-violence and tolerance to extend beyond personal morality and into what?

Politics

7. In the beginning of the video, the narrator says that non-violence would be one of the most “dangerous ideas in world history”. Why would non-violence be considered a dangerous idea?