

April 03	Questions	
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1. On April 8, Hana Matsuri, or flower festivals, are held at Buddhist temples around the country. What kind of event is the Hana Matsuri, or Flower Festival?
2. During the Hana Matsuri, or the flower festival, a basin containing Amacha, or sweet tea, is placed in a small hall (Hanamido) decorated with various flowers, and a statue of Buddha (Birth Buddha) in an appearance of a baby is worshiped. Amacha, or sweet tea, is poured from the head of the birth Buddha with ladle. What is Amacha, or sweet tea?
3. Why pour Amacha, or sweet tea, to Buddha statues?
4. It is said that Buddha got up and walked seven steps as soon as he was born. He recited a phrase as he pointed to the heavens with his right hand and to the earth with his left hand. What did he say?
5. During Hana Matsuri, or the flower festival, Buddha statues are placed on white elephants, or figurines of white elephants are often seen.

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6. Why? When and where was Buddha born?
7. The prince, Gautama Siddhartha, began learning arts and sciences, as well as martial arts, at the age of seven, and did extremely well in all disciplines. But as he was growing up, he began to worry about something. What were his troubles?
8. At the age of 16, he welcomed his princess, and ten years later, a boy named Rafta was born, and Gautama became a father, but his problems did not disappear. What happened to him as a result?
9. How did Gautama become enlightened?
10. Then, what is enlightenment?