Padmasambhava – Did Tibet's Second Buddha Really Exist?

Subjects: English · Religious Studies · History | recommended from age 13 (B1) | Video: 8:48 min



Watch the video
youtu.be/Jhh6OhxFTpQ

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

A · Before watching

1. How can you tell whether a story about a person from the past is true? Name two clues.

B · While watching

1. What is Padmasambhava called in Tibet, and why is he important?

2. Why did King Trisong Detsen bring him to Tibet?

3. According to legend, what did Padmasambhava do with Tibet's old gods?

4. What does the “Testament of Ba” say about him – and what do the Dunhuang manuscripts say?

5. What are terma, and which famous text belongs to them?

Useful words

lotus	Lotus	source	Quelle
monastery	Kloster	treasure	Schatz
oath	Schwur	legend	Legende
manuscript	Handschrift	evidence	Beleg

C · Put the story in order

Number the events from 1 to 8 in the order they happen in the video.

	Padmasambhava binds Tibet's old gods with an oath.
	In 1900 a cave library is found at Dunhuang.
	A child sits in a lotus flower on a lake in Oddiyana.
	The “Testament of Ba” says the king sent him back.
	The prince leaves the court and meditates in the charnel grounds.
	Over the centuries treasure finders discover “hidden” teachings.
	Disasters strike while the Samye monastery is being built.
	In the legend he rides off through the sky.

D · Think and discuss

1. “Some figures matter more than the question of whether they existed.” Do you agree? Explain.

2. The old gods were not wiped out but became protectors. What does that tell us about how religions spread?

E · Legend and sources compared

Compare what the legend tells and what the oldest sources suggest.

	The legend	The oldest sources / research
Origin		
Role in Tibet		
How long he stayed		
His end		

F · Get creative

1. In your exercise book, write a short report as a historian: what can we say about Padmasambhava for sure, and what not? (8–10 sentences)