Typical Summaries of Basic Buddhism

Three Jewels or Refuges:	Buddha, Dharma (teachings), Sangha (community of monks + nuns))		
Four Noble Truths:	1-Life is suffering; 2-Cause of suffering is desire; 3-Removing desir	e		
	removes suffering; 4-8-Fold Path as the means to conquer desire			
8-Fold Path:	Right speech, action, livelihood + mindfulness, concentration + views, intention			
Progressive Practice:	morality \rightarrow meditation $\rightarrow praj\tilde{n}\bar{a}$ shila dhyāna "insight", "wisdo	m"		
Three Makers of Reality: suffering, impermanence, soul-less [←seen with prajñā]				
Ethical Precepts: not to kill, lie, steal, be sexually unfaithful, use intoxicants				

	THERAVĀDA	MAHĀYĀNA
Modern	Sri Lanka, Thailand, Burma,	Nepal, Tibet, China, Korea, Japan, Mongolia
Geography	Cambodia, Laos	
Scripture	Pali Canon universally accepted	Canons extant in Sanskrit, Tibetan, Chinese, Japanese; many not accepted by Theravadins
Buddha	Multiple, rare human Buddhas Stresses the historical Gautama	Buddhahood as cosmological reality "3 Bodies of Buddha" theory
Philosophy	Analysis of human experience into discrete, changing realities (dharmas)	Focus on emptiness of phenomena and analysis of consciousness; theory of all humans possessing enlightenment potential
Saint Exemplar	Arhat, detached and meditative, who seeks own salvation	bodhisattva who strives to liberate self and others
Monasticism	Center of tradition; Necessary for enlightenment	Center of tradition; not necessary for enlightenment
Ritual Focus	Stūpas, Buddha Images, chants merit-making	Stūpas, Buddha Images, celestial bodhisattvas, chants; merit-making