The main streams of Buddhism

**THE BUDDHA (GAUTAMA)**
c.563–c.480 BCE
Emperor Ashoka
reigned c.274–c.236 BCE

Other sects vanished

- **THERAVADA**
The strict 'doctrine of the Elders'
4th century BCE

  - Sri Lanka
  - SE Asia

- **MAHAYANA**
The large vehicle accommodating many different beliefs
1st century BCE

  - Tibetan Buddhism
    from 7th century CE
  - Pure Land
    402 CE
  - Ch’an/Zen
    1191 CE
  - Nichiren
    1253 CE