The main streams of Buddhism

**THE BUDDHA (GAUTAMA)**
- c563–480 BCE
- Emperor Ashoka reigned c274–236 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
  - Japan
  - China
  - Korea
  - Ch'an/Zen
    - 1191 CE
  - Nichiren
    - 1253 CE