

The Giant Buddha of Leshan






8.1 SPIDER DIAGRAMS

Barney

- The Tang Dynasty is considered to be the golden age of Chinese art. It's also well known for the rapid growth of Buddhism in China.
- Woodblock printing was introduced in this period.
- Construction of huge statue in 713 BC

During the 8th century
Buddhist monasteries
gained land, riches
and power. Monks
became teachers and
provided services su

In 841 BC There was
a uprising against
Buddhism and many
monastries were destroyed
and monks forced into
a civilian life

-  = Geography
-  = History
-  = Religion.

Construction on the huge statue began in 713 BC and was finally completed in 803 BC so it took 90 years to build!

The tight curls in his hair reminded me of a Buddhist monk. He got rid of his hair and replaced it with curls.

Haitomy was a Buddhist monk who lived in the 8th century B.C. He raised money and was the mastermind behind the statue.

The statue is built by the confluence of the rivers dadu and the min. 3 million tourists visit each year.

- Made in the
Sichuan province
which has a population
of over 80 mil.

- Many tourists instead of by land.
- It was carried out of the stone cage of the river.

Drainage system through his cars.

✓ The dadar is a tributary to the great pangzote river.

Built to calm the waters on the river
it was built on. The statue is made
out of red sandstone.

The Sichuan province is full of mountains, plateau, big river valleys. It's capital is Chengdu.

capital is China.

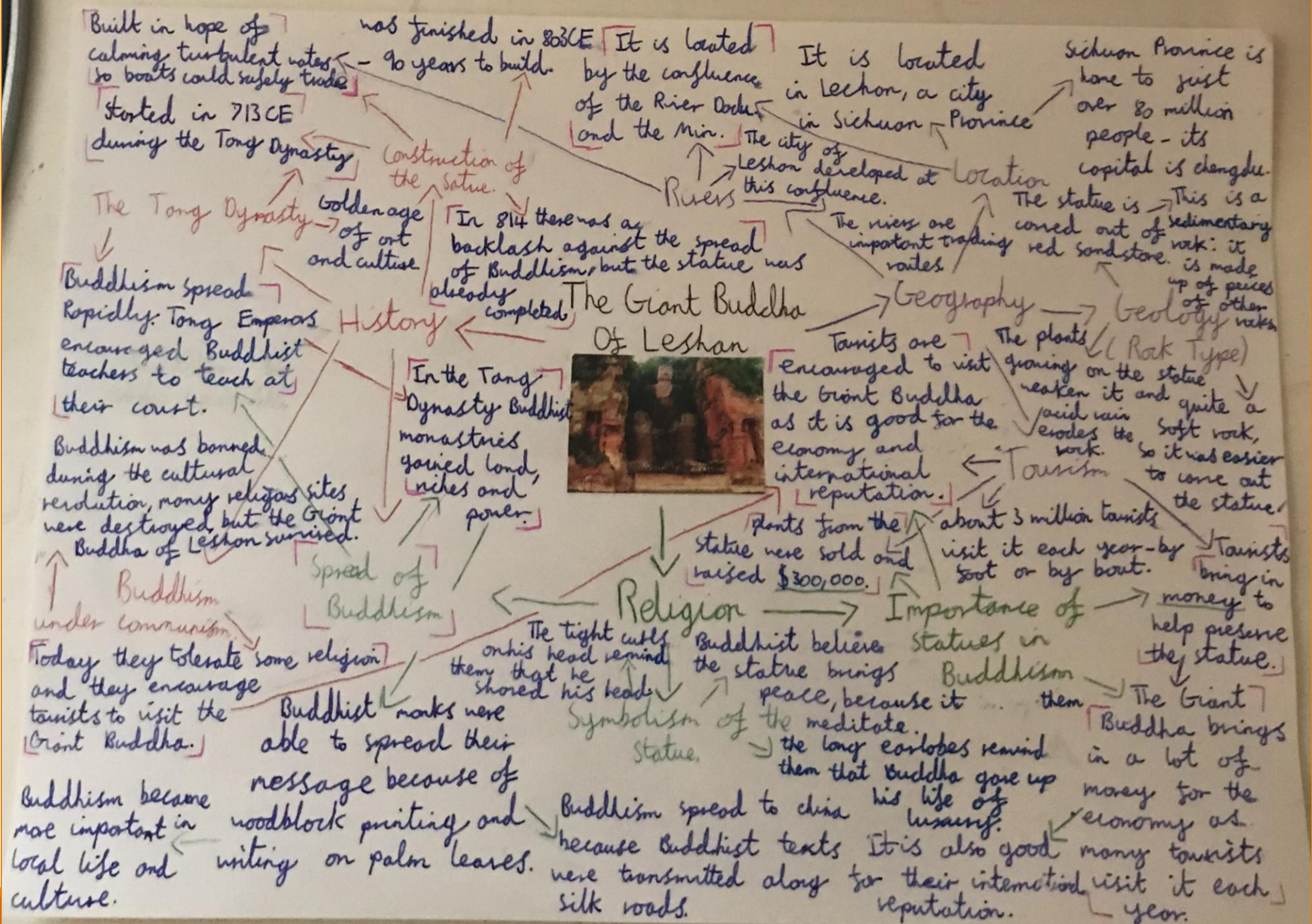
Normandy B. Buddhism is restricted in China because of the communist status of B. Buddhism government.

place. From 1966 to 76 religion was banned in China.

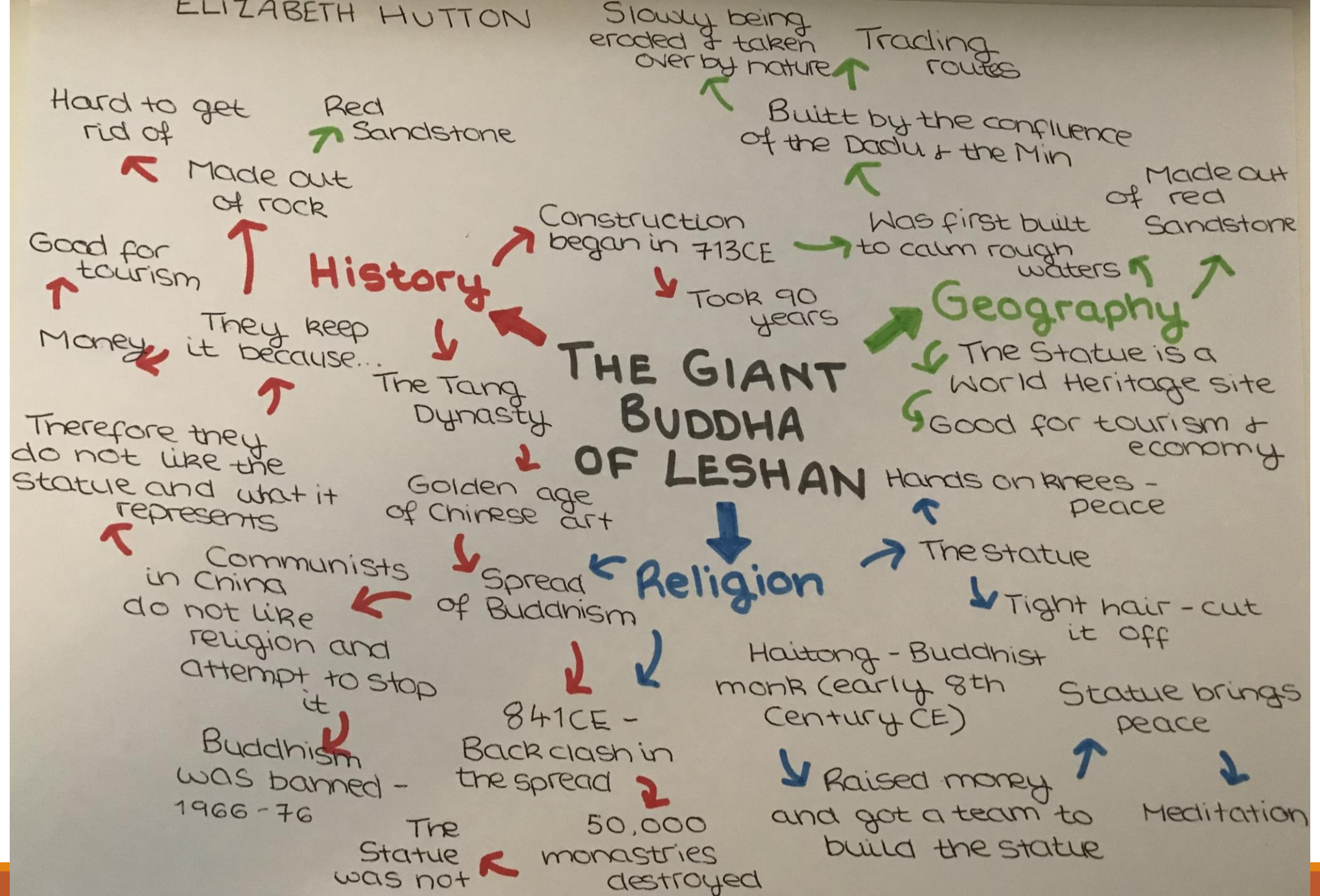
Car-bikes remind buddhists

The long car-^{riage}
of his wealth.

His hands are resting on his knees because he is at peace



Elizabeth



Eloise

• Golden age of Chinese culture.

TANG DYNASTY:

• Buddhist had lots of riches, land and power.

• Haitong master-minded the engineers and raised money for construction.

CONSTRUCTION:

• Started in 713CE, finished 803CE (90 years).
• Carved into rock (Red Sandstone).

RIVERS:

• The statue is near the confluence of the rivers, Dadu and Min.
• Boats brought goods in and out using the rivers.
• The rivers were turbulent and dangerous.

BUDDHISM & COMMUNISM:

• Banned during Cultural Revolution (1966-1976)

HISTORY

• Religious sites were generally destroyed.
• Now, very controlled by the State.

SPREAD OF BUDDHISM:

• It was travelling eastwards, one way it reached China.

! = it was constructed to calm the waters
! = the confluence made the waters dangerous
• The curls on the head show Buddhists that he cut his hair once he was enlightened.

• Buddhism was spread along the Silk Roads by many Sutras.

RELIGION

SYMBOLISM OF THE STATUE:

• It shows the Buddha is at peace, with his hands on his knees.
• The long ear lobes show Buddha's past riches which he gave up for good, after his enlightenment.

GIANT

BUDDHA

GEOGRAPHY

LOCATION:

Leshan,
Sichuan Province,
China

TOURISM:

! = the rock type was easy for construction.
• It was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996.
• The tourists bring money to help maintain the statue.
• They also bring litter and other problems.

• The statue attracts nearly 3,000,000 tourists per year.

GEOLOGY:

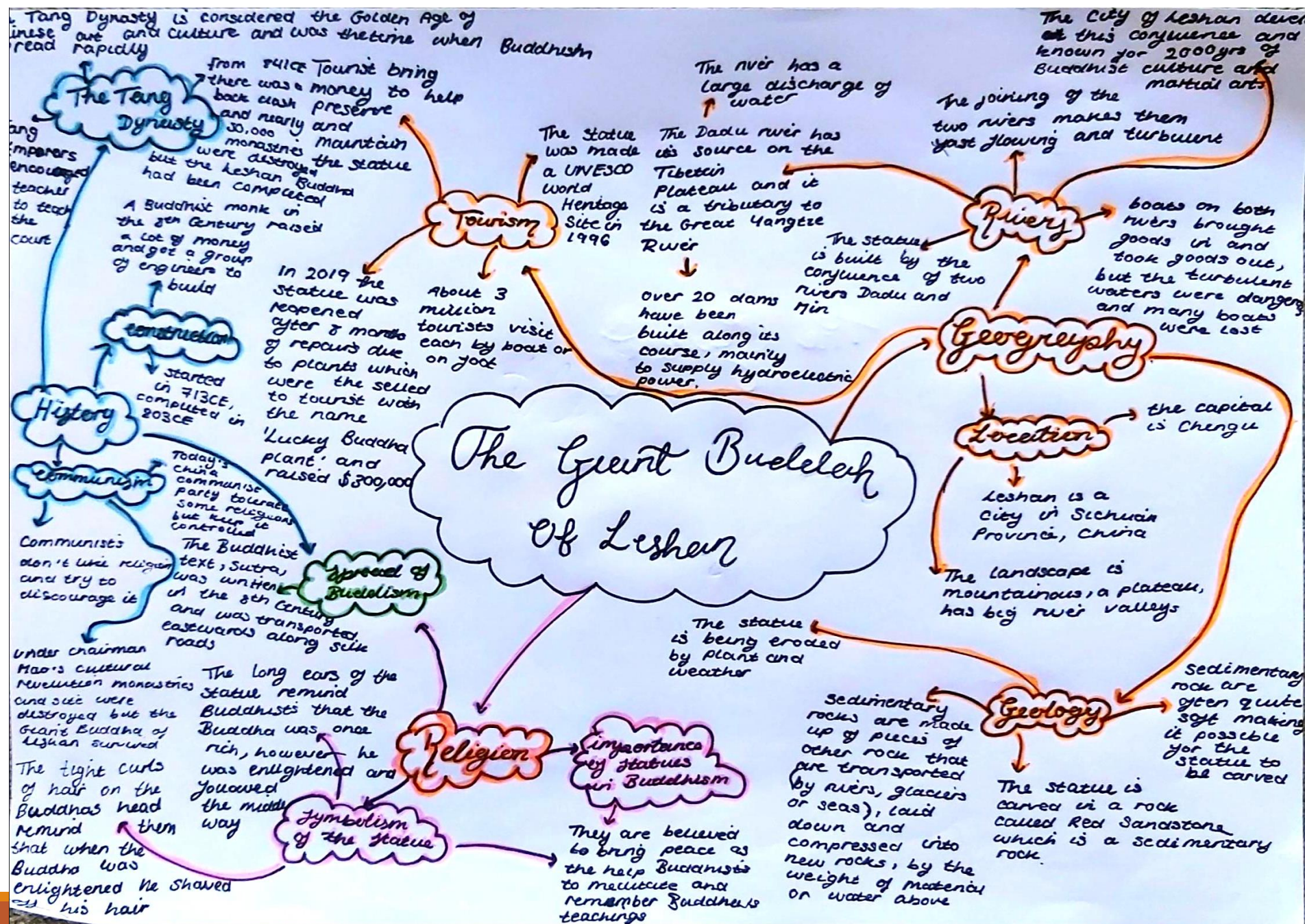
• Carved from Red Sandstone.
• A sedimentary rock, meaning it was easy to carve, but also easy to be eroded.

IMPORTANCE OF BUDDHIST STATUES:

• They are thought to bring peace.
• They help in meditation and remembering of the Buddha's teachings.
• They bring peace to turbulent waters.

Links = !!!
coloured exclamation marks

Lily



Louisa

History

Construction of statue

- Construction started in 713 CE and was completed in 803 CE.

- It took 90 years to build.
- It was built in the hope to calm the turbulent waters of the river.

- Under Communism, Communists do not like religion and discourage it or actively stamp it out.

- Many monasteries were destroyed but the statue survived in the British Library.
- Today's Communists encourage people to book and many visit the statue.
- The early texts were transmitted eastwards.
- One copy was found in a cave in Dunhuang, in Gansu.

The Tang Dynasty

- The Tang Dynasty is considered the golden age of Chinese art.
- During the Tang Dynasty, Buddhism spread rapidly.
- Emperor Xuanzong ruled from 712 to 756 CE.

Spreading Buddhism

- The Buddhist text Sutra is kept in the British Library.
- It was part of a collection of the early texts.
- Many transmitted eastwards.
- One copy was found in a cave in Dunhuang, in Gansu.

- The statue was built in Leshan in the Sichuan Province, China.
- The exact location is on the confluence of the Min and Dadu rivers.

What the Giant Buddha of Leshan

Can teach us about the geography, history and religion of that part of China

Symbolism

- The long earlobes on the statue remind Buddhists that he was once rich (heavy jewelry extended earlobes, but no earrings because he gave up wealth).
- Tight curls remind Buddhists that he got rid of his hair and it grew back in tight curls.

Location

Geography

Rivers

Geology

- The statue is made of Red Sandstone.
- Sandstone is a sedimentary rock.
- The rock is being eroded.
- The rock is soft so it was easy to carve.
- Moss and plants grow on the statue.

- The statue is built at the confluence of the Dadu and Min rivers.
- The City of Leshan was developed at this confluence.
- Boats took goods in and out.
- One 20 dams have been built.

Tourism

- About 3 million tourists come each year.
- They bring in lots of money to preserve the statue.
- Tourists bring litter, pollution and footpath erosion.
- On certain days it gets very crowded.
- In 2019 the statue reopened after having plants taken off and sold as 'Lucky Buddha plants'.

Religion

Importance of Statues

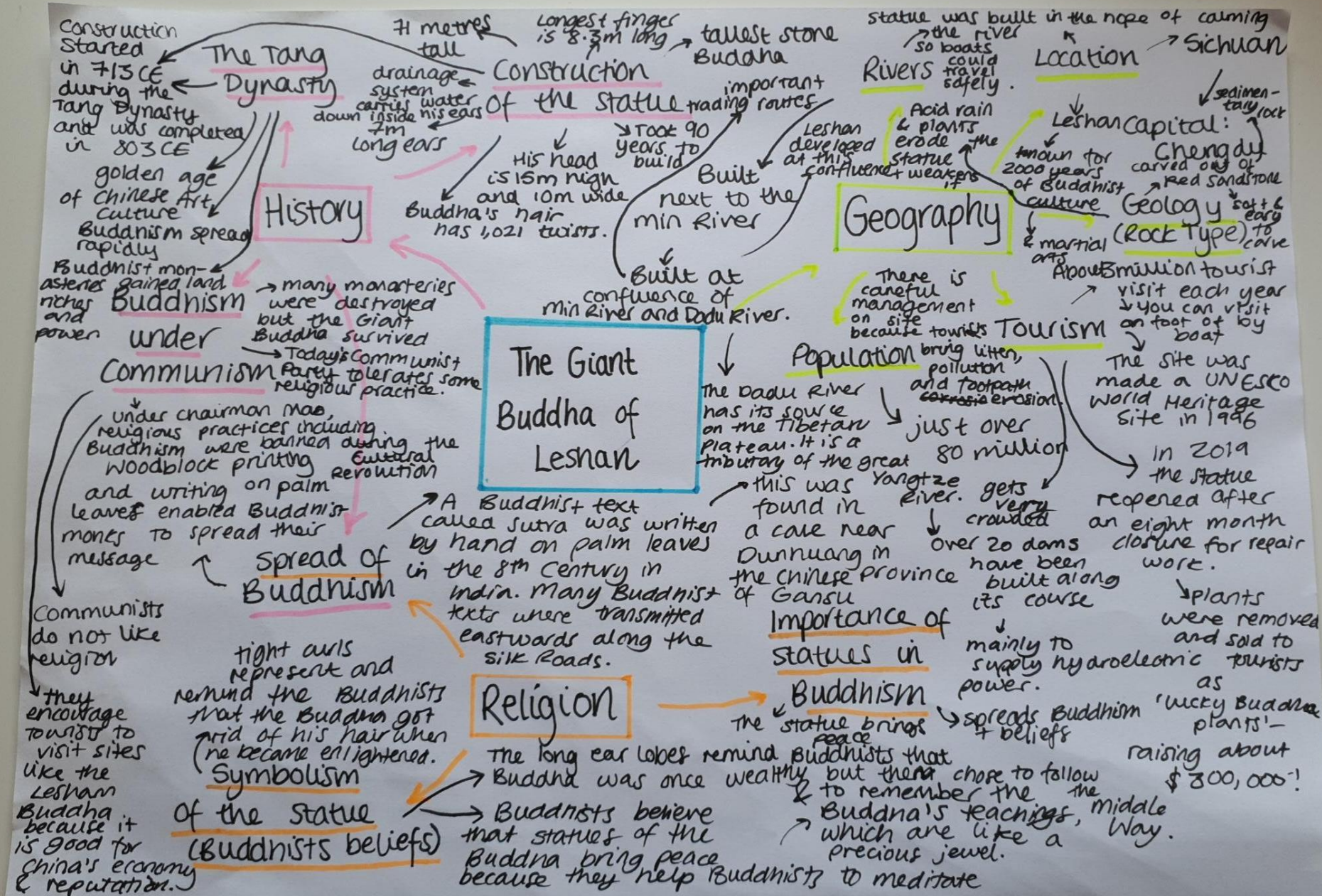
- The statues bring Buddhists peace, because they help Buddhists meditate.
- They remind Buddhists of important things and people like the Buddha.
- It is really important because it took time and effort to build.

Louisa's Key

Mind Map Key:

- The statue was built on the confluence links to it being constructed and being built to calm the river because the whole reason behind the location was because of calming the water.
- The statue being made to calm the water links to it being really important to Buddhists because calming the river is believed in because of religion and is really important to Buddhists. Also it links to Geography and rivers and the water needs to be safe to transport goods.
- The Communists links to importance of the statue because the Communists destroyed lots of religious places, but the Buddha statue survived. This makes the statue even more important to them because other religious places were destroyed.
- Spreading Buddhism ties in with History and Religion because it tells us what happened in the past which influenced now and tells us more on the religion of Buddhism and why the religion is so big today.
- The importance of the Buddha links to tourists bringing in money because if the Buddha wasn't important, tourists wouldn't visit and give money. Also this links to the rock eroding because tourists bring money to help keep the statue clean and not erode as much.
- The statue being important because it took time to build links to plants that grew on the Buddha statue being sold as 'Lucky Buddha plants' because if the Buddha wasn't important then plants wouldn't sell well.
- The fact that there are 3 million tourists who visit each year links to Communists today actively encouraging people to come and see it. If Communists didn't allow people to see it, there would be less tourists because it would be risky to see it.
- The Tang Dynasty spreading Buddhism and the early texts spreading Buddhism links to the symbolism of the statue and reminding Buddhists that the Buddha is important. If the Tang Dynasty and early texts weren't around, Buddhism wouldn't be as popular.

Mya



The Giant Buddha Of Leshan

From 841CE there was a rebelling against the growing influence of Buddhism

Was finished in 803 AD (took 90 years to build)

The city of Leshan developed at this confluence.

Located in Sichuan province(China). Population of just over 80 million. Has a landscape with mountains, plateaus and big river valleys.

Many of the Tang Emperors encouraged Buddhist teachers to come teach at their court

Built during the Tang Dynasty

Turbulent, stormy waters wreaked havoc for boats travelling down the river.

Built out of red sandstone, good material to carve sculptures out of.

A 13-story building was built around it to give it further protection from the elements but was dismantled by the Mongols during a war.

The Buddha's hair is arranged in special spiralled curls with 1,021 twists.

Geography

The Tang Dynasty was considered to be the golden age of Chinese art and culture, so Buddhism spread rapidly

The statue was built at the confluence of the Min Rive and Dadu River.

Largest stone Buddha in the world and largest pre-modern times statue- 71m tall with a head of 14.7 metres tall by 10 m wide.

History

Communists did not like the religion and tried to discourage it or actively stamp it out. Nearly 50,000 monasteries were destroyed and 250,000 monks were forced back into civilian life.

Has a drainage system that carries water down his ears.

Became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996

The idea of the statue came from a man called Haitong in 713CE.

Haitong believed that the statue would provide safe protection for the ships passing by and keep the conditions calm

Can be viewed from the bottom or the top following a set of staircases going around the statue

Mao banned Buddhist practices during the Cultural Revolution (1996-1976)

Buddhist monasteries gained land, riches and power. Woodblock printing and writing on palm leaves enabled Buddhist monks to spread their message to ordinary people. Buddhism became an important part of local life and culture. A Buddhist text (Sutra) is kept in the British Library- it was part of a book bound together with thread, many early Buddhist texts were transmitted eastwards along the Silk Roads in forms like this

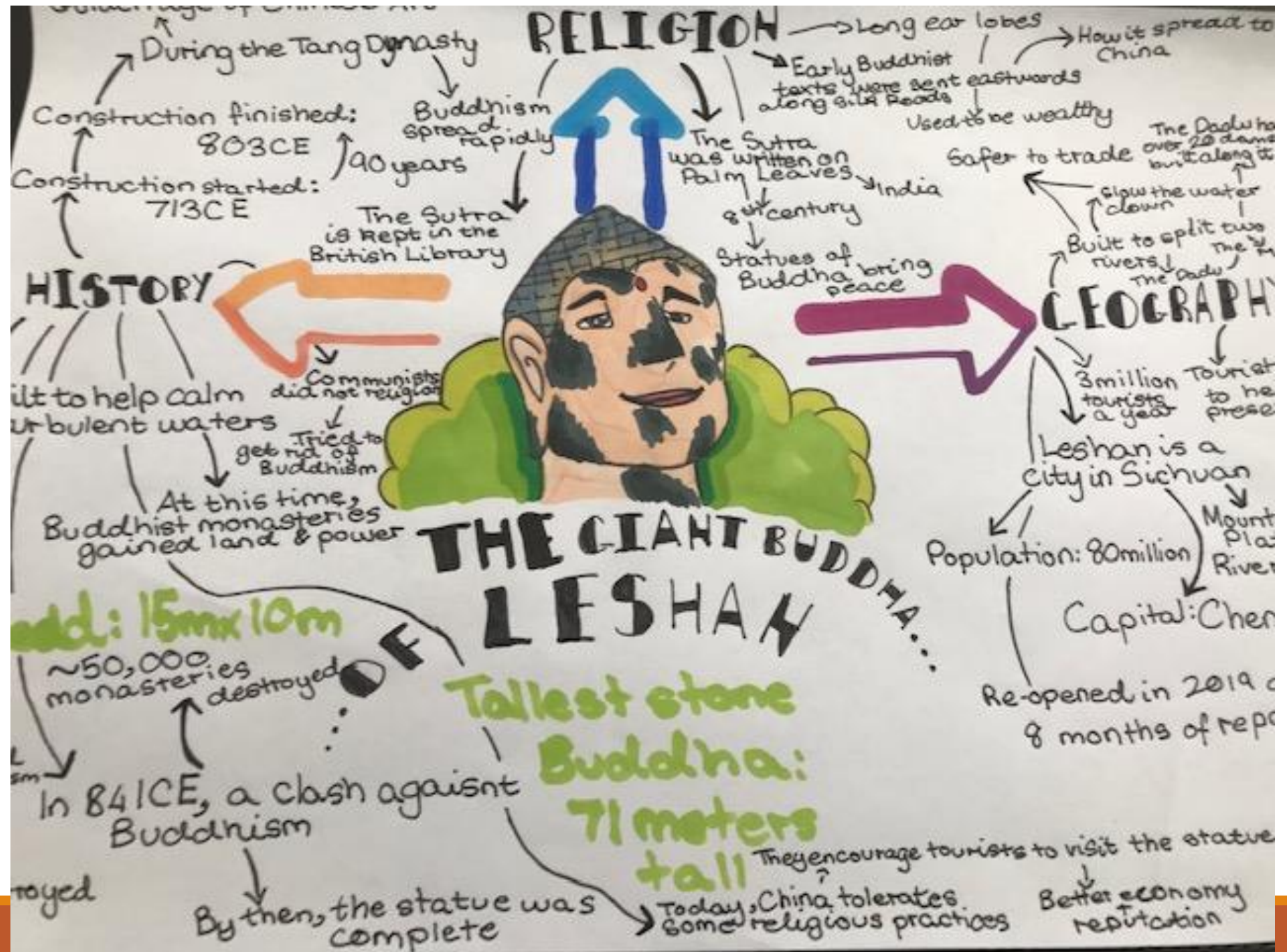
Religion

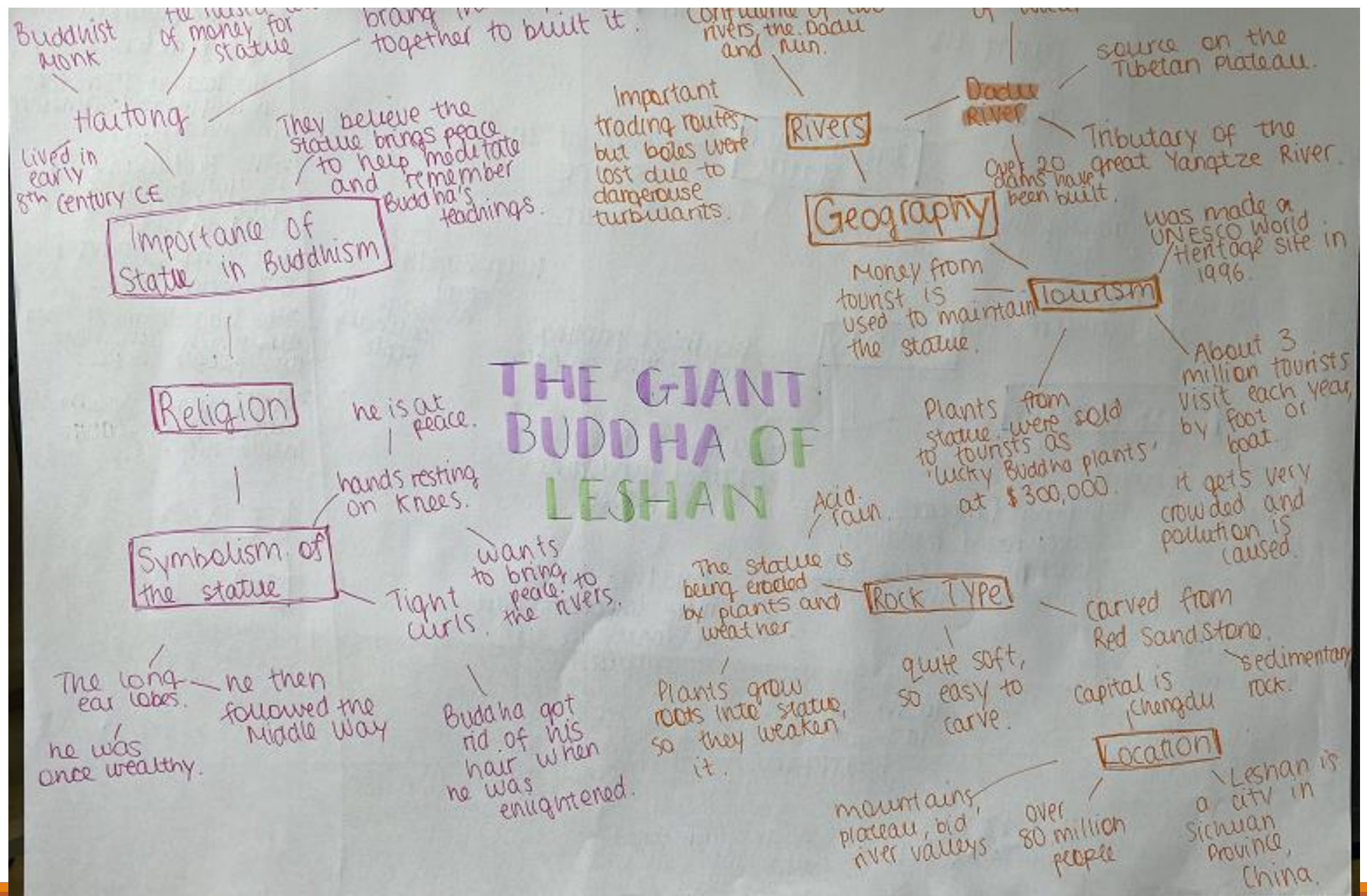
He also believed that removing all that rock and putting it into the river would slow the current down- protecting the ships (this actually worked).

The statue was said to be one of the Maitreya Buddha or successor to the present one called Guatama Buddha.



Noah





Giant Buddha of Leshan

