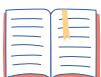


Reaching for the Clouds Meditation

STAY ACTIVE

To guide students through a relaxing, imaginative meditation that fosters mindfulness, relaxation, and a sense of joy and community.



Learning Intentions

I can practice mindfulness and relaxation through guided meditation:

This encourages students to focus on the present moment and relax their bodies and minds, fostering emotional well-being and mindfulness.

I can use my imagination to create a positive, peaceful mental space:

This helps students use their imagination to engage in a relaxing, creative visualisation, promoting calmness and relaxation.

I can reflect on the positive feelings and experiences I have during the meditation:

This encourages students to reflect on feelings of joy, connection, and gratitude, enhancing their emotional awareness.



Success Criteria

Following the Guided Meditation:

Students can follow the guided meditation by taking deep breaths and focusing on the visualisation, promoting focus and relaxation.

Using Imagination for a Magical Journey:

Students can imagine the magical journey and the surprises along the way, encouraging creativity and imagination as they visualise the story's positive moments.

Feeling Relaxed and Energised:

Students can relax their body and mind, feeling calm and energised at the end of the session, experiencing the intended effects of relaxation, positive energy, and happiness.



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Objective: To guide students through a relaxing, imaginative meditation that fosters mindfulness, relaxation, and a sense of joy and community.

Players: Ideal for individual or group sessions (5-20 students).



Materials:

- A quiet, comfortable space.
- A video or audio recording of the meditation (if using a recorded version).
- Optional: soft background music or calming sounds.

Time Required: 10-15 minutes.

Setup: Ensure students are seated comfortably in a quiet, safe space. Make sure there are no distractions and that the room is conducive to a calm and peaceful experience.

Gameplay:

1. **Introduce the Meditation:** Begin by explaining to the students that they will go on a magical journey to a peaceful, beautiful place. Tell them to sit comfortably with their eyes closed, take three deep breaths, and relax their bodies.
2. **Guide the Journey:** Lead the students through the meditation with the following story:
 - "Today, I will take you on a magical journey to a land of many surprises, so close your eyes and take three deep breaths as we are about to go somewhere magical. As you open the gate to your secret garden, many colourful balloons come tumbling out to greet you."
 - Continue through the story, describing the discovery of different coloured balloons and the fun activities tied to them:
 - Red balloons with cricket equipment for a fun game of cricket.
 - Blue balloons with a flying fox that soars high above the treetops, offering adventure and excitement.
 - Green balloons with yellow running shoes lead to a trampoline experience where students bounce higher and higher, reaching for the clouds.
 - Allow the students to imagine themselves playing with their friends, experiencing joy and community as they share these exciting moments together.



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3. Encourage Relaxation: As the story progresses, remind students to breathe deeply and stay relaxed. Offer guidance as they imagine resting on clouds, feeling light and free, or finding another balloon to explore more surprises. Encourage them to focus on the positive, happy emotions they're experiencing.

4. Return to Reality: As the meditation comes to an end, gently guide the students back to the present moment:

- "Stay where you are in a comfortable, safe place. When you wake, you will feel full of energy and happiness, as if you have just been to the clouds and back."

5. Reflection Time: After the meditation, allow a few moments of silence for students to reflect on their experiences. You can ask questions like:

- "How did you feel during the meditation?"
- "What was your favourite part of the journey?"
- "What positive emotions or experiences did you feel while imagining the story?"

Winning the Game: There is no winner in this activity. The goal is to promote relaxation, mindfulness, and positive emotions. Success is measured by students' engagement with meditation, their ability to relax, and the positive feelings they experience afterwards.

Additional Notes: "Reaching for the Clouds" is a wonderful way to introduce mindfulness, relaxation, and emotional regulation to young students. The imaginative elements of the story help engage students and make the meditation more enjoyable, while the focus on breathing and calmness promotes emotional well-being. This activity can be used as a tool to help students manage stress, build resilience, and foster positive relationships with themselves and others.

