

Freeze and Think

STAY ACTIVE

To help students explore the connection between movement and mindfulness by playing a fun freeze dance game with a calming twist. When the music stops, students practise a "cool-down" action to help them think clearly and settle their bodies, mirroring the lessons from Mercury, where big emotions can be balanced with thoughtful actions.



Learning Intentions

I can use movement to help my body feel calm and in control:

This helps students connect physical movement with emotional self-regulation.

I can practice calming actions like taking a deep breath or hugging myself:

This introduces mindful responses to moments of frustration or conflict.

I can stop, think, and choose a peaceful action when the music pauses:

This supports the development of self-awareness and intentional decision-making.



Success Criteria

I can move safely and creatively while the music plays:

This allows students to express energy and enjoy movement with purpose.

I can freeze my body when the music stops and practise a calming action:

This promotes control, focus, and calming physical strategies.

I can take part in the game while listening carefully and showing care for others:

This reinforces teamwork, self-control, and peer respect.



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Objective:

To help students explore the connection between movement and mindfulness by playing a fun freeze dance game with a calming twist. When the music stops, students practise a "cool-down" action to help them think clearly and settle their bodies, mirroring the lessons from Mercury, where big emotions can be balanced with thoughtful actions.

Players:

Ideal for 6–26 students, moving in an open indoor or outdoor space.

Materials:

- A music player or speaker
- Upbeat, fun music (instrumental or familiar songs)
- Optional: Visual cards of calming actions (e.g. "Take a deep breath", "Hug yourself", "Stretch tall") (You can brainstorm these as a class prior to starting the activity).

Time Required:

10–15 minutes

Setup:

Clear a space for safe movement. Explain that today's game is called *Freeze and Think*, and it will help students practise how to calm their bodies and minds, especially when something unexpected happens.

Revisit the *Mercury* page in *The Playful Astronauts* book and remind students that Mercury is a place of extremes, very hot and very cold. Sometimes, we can feel like that during a disagreement, but there are things we can do to cool down and feel calm again.

Gameplay:

Explain the Game:

Tell students that they will dance freely while the music plays. When the music stops, they must freeze and immediately do a calming action like:

- Taking a deep breath
- Hugging themselves
- Slowly stretching their arms to the sky
- Placing their hands on their heart

You can use visual cards or demonstrate each option beforehand.

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Begin the Game:

1. Play the music and let students dance and move however they like.
2. Pause the music at random. As soon as the music stops:
 - Students freeze.
 - Then, everyone completes one calming action (teacher can call it out or let students choose).
3. Restart the music and continue the game with a few rounds.

Encourage creativity during the dance, and calm, focused actions during the freeze moments. If letting the students choose their own calming actions encourage them to try a different action each time the music stops (encourage them to watch others to learn new calming actions).

Encourage Calm and Reflection:

- At the end of the game, gather students and ask:
- “How did it feel to stop and do something calming?”
 - “Which calming action helped you feel most relaxed?”
 - “Could you use one of those if you felt upset during the day?”

Winning the Game:

There are no winners or losers. The aim is to have fun moving and to learn how to use calming actions during moments of big energy or emotion, just like we learn to cool down and think clearly during conflict.

Additional Notes:

“Freeze and Think” is a joyful, active way to integrate mindfulness into everyday classroom movement. It provides students with tools to pause, reset, and respond thoughtfully during challenges. By practising this skill in a safe and playful way, students begin to see that they have the power to choose calm, just as Mercury teaches us to balance extremes and find peace in the pause. Try to come back to the calming actions regularly as the teacher, randomly ask students to practice their calming actions, a great way to start a class or after a lunch break.

