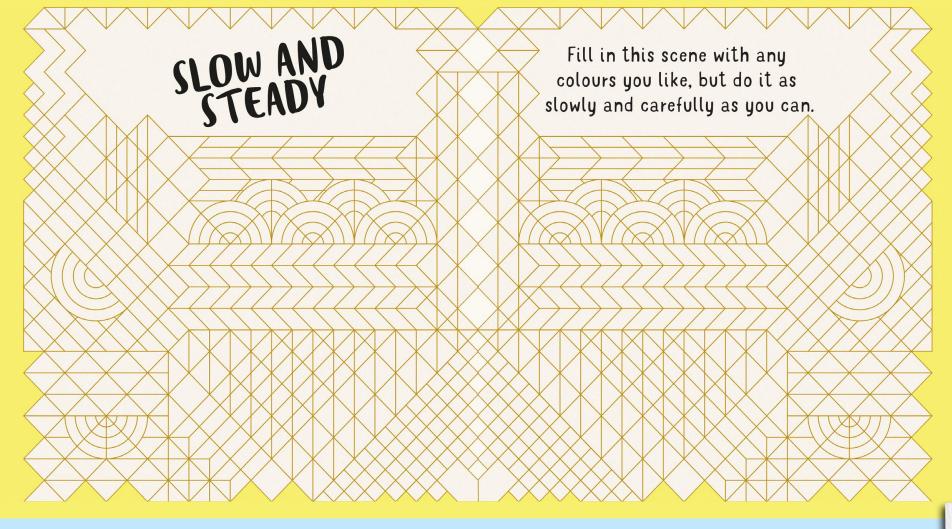




Colouring can help you relax, by giving you something to focus on.

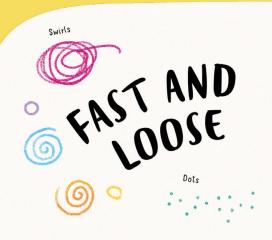
But different ways of colouring suit different people, in different moods.

Which of these techniques do you prefer?











You might find that slow, precise colouring feels more relaxing one day, and free scribbling feels better the next, All that matters is that it helps you relax and slow down.



Usborne Activities

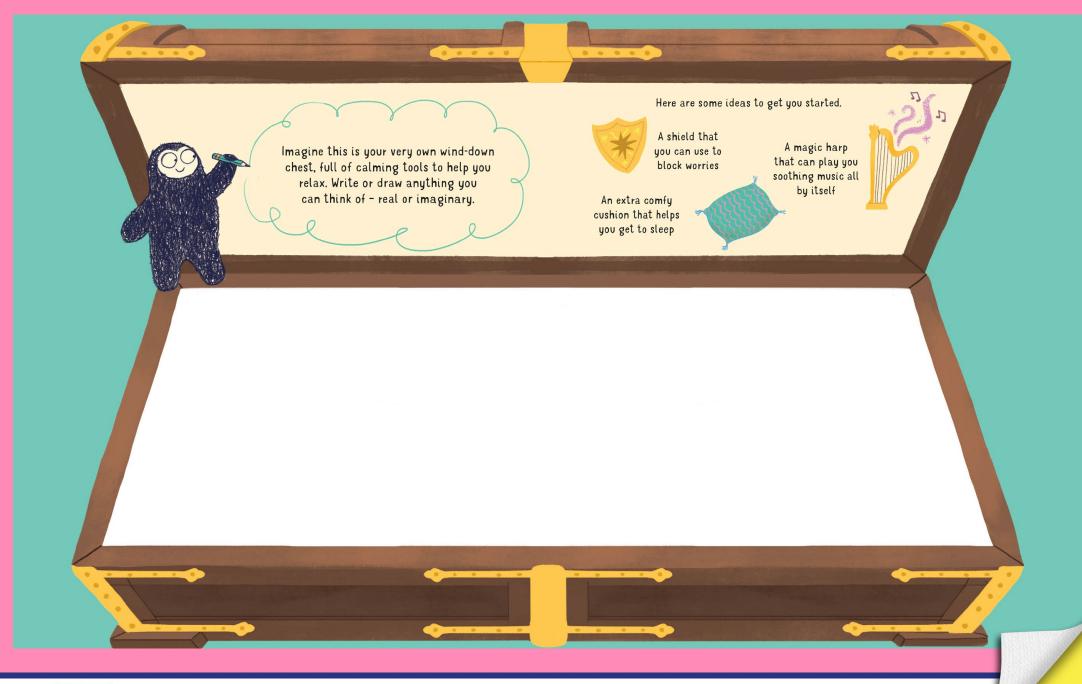














Copyright © Usborne Publishing Limited, 2023. Illustrations by Manu Montoya

LOOK INSIDE

There's a centuries-old method of keeping calm, called MEDITATION. It wakes up parts of your brain that help you grow AWARE of your body, thoughts and emotions. This can help make busy, stressful thoughts feel much smaller.

There are hundreds of different ways to meditate.
For a lot of them, you sit like this...

EVES CLOSED

ARMS AND
SHOULDERS RELAXED



HANDS RESTING

LEGS CROSSED

BACK STRAIGHT

Prop up your bottom, legs and knees with cushions, if it's uncomfortable.

Once you're comfortable, try this meditation technique. Focus on your body as you do it.

1

Breathe in through your nose, then open your mouth like this, and as you breathe out say...

AAAAAAA.



3 your mouth unti

Keep closing your mouth until it's fully closed. The sound will change to...

..MMMM..



Slowly close your mouth and the sound will start to change to...

...HHHHHH...



4

When you join these sounds together slowly, over and over again, you might feel different parts of your body

BUZZ and VIBRATE

Your muscles might relax, too.

The more you try it, the easier it will get...







FLAT ON YOUR BACK

When you're lying down FLAT, you're in the best position to relax. Give these flat-on-your-back relaxation techniques a try.

BELLY BALLOON

1

Lie on your back and place your hands on your tummy. Imagine your tummy is an empty balloon.

1

Breathe in through your NOSE and count to four. Feel your tummy fill up with air.

3

Count to two, then slowly breathe out through your MOUTH.
Your tummy should deflate.

4

Wait a few seconds, then repeat a few times. Breathing into your tummy makes you take slower, deeper breaths. This makes your heart beat slower, and your muscles relax. In fact, it might even send you to sleep. TENSE, UNTENSE

Lie down with your arms on either side of you, with all of your muscles loose.

These activities release calming, feel-good chemicals into your brain and muscles.
The chemicals overpower other chemicals, such as ADRENALINE, which keep you tense and alert.

1

Take a slow, deep breath in, then TENSE your WHOLE BODY (but not so much that it hurts) and count to four...



...then UNTENSE it all at once. Repeat this several times.

HUG YOURSELF

1

Lie down so that you're comfy, and give yourself a BIG HUG. 1

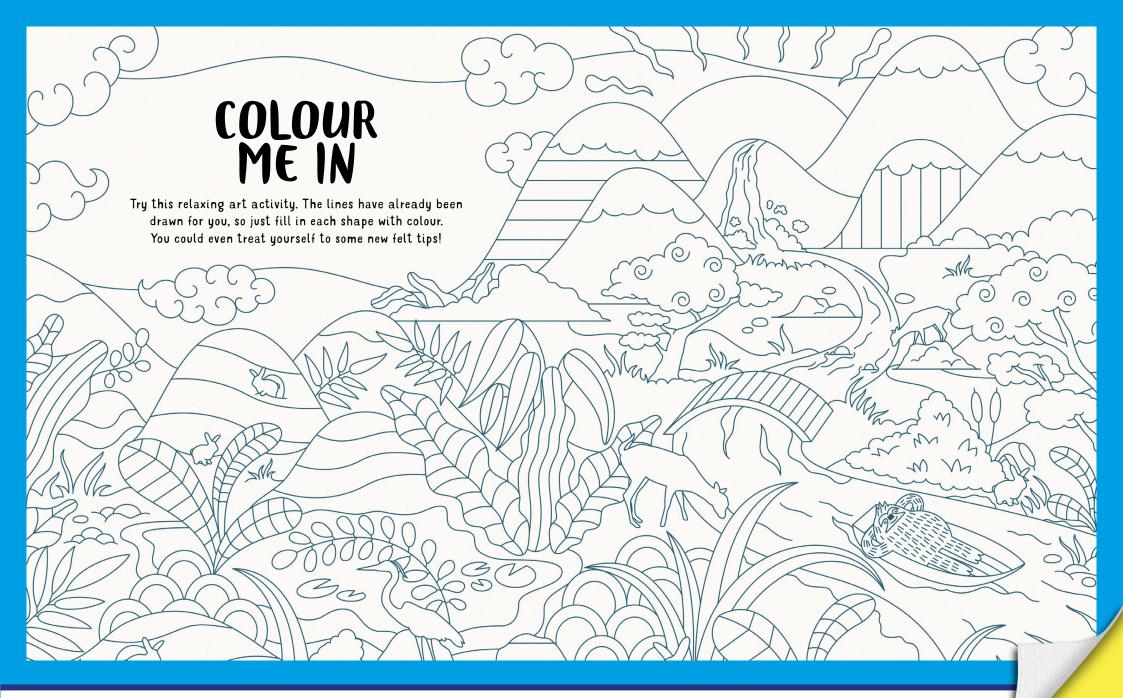
Close your eyes and focus on your breathing. After a short while, you'll probably notice yourself feeling calmer.





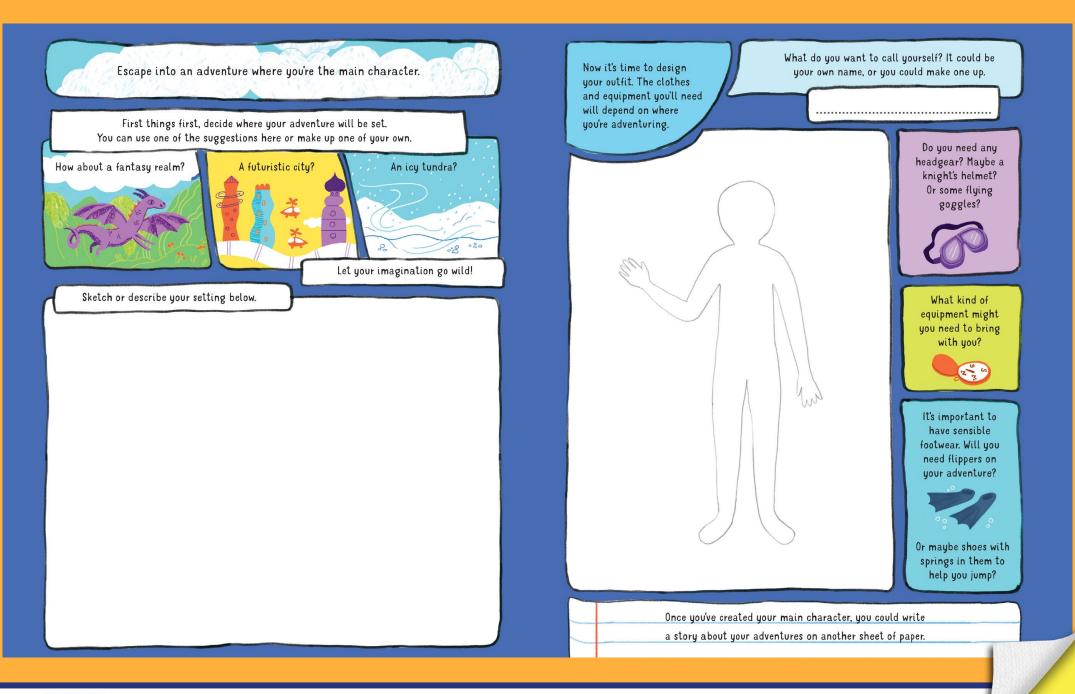
Usborne Activities















Copyright © Usborne Publishing Limited, 2023. Illustrations by Manu Montoya







Copyright © Usborne Publishing Limited, 2023. Illustrations by Ada Crowe



MASSAGE PACK

MASSAGES can relax your muscles, calm your nerves, and even help you sleep better. Get comfy and try these massage techniques on yourself.

HEAD

Place the tips of your fingers on your head, like this.



Rub your fingers around all at once, as if you're rubbing in shampoo.

Keep going for as long as you feel like.

ARMS

Pressing gently with one hand, make long, flowing strokes up and down your arm, from your wrist to your shoulder. Do this until you feel your arm warm up.



Then, rub little circles all over the arm from top to bottom.

Try these techniques on both arms, and then on both legs too.

FEET

Find a soft ball, such as a tennis ball, and place one foot on it.

Roll the ball forwards and backwards with your foot for a while...





...then try rolling it around in little circles, all along your foot.

Try it on both feet - but not at once!

SHOULDERS

Relax your shoulders, then rub up and down one of them until the shoulder feels warm.



Next, move up and down the same shoulder, making light, short squeezes as you go.



Do this on both shoulders, one at a time.



Stressful feelings aren't just in your mind - they make your BODY tense, too.

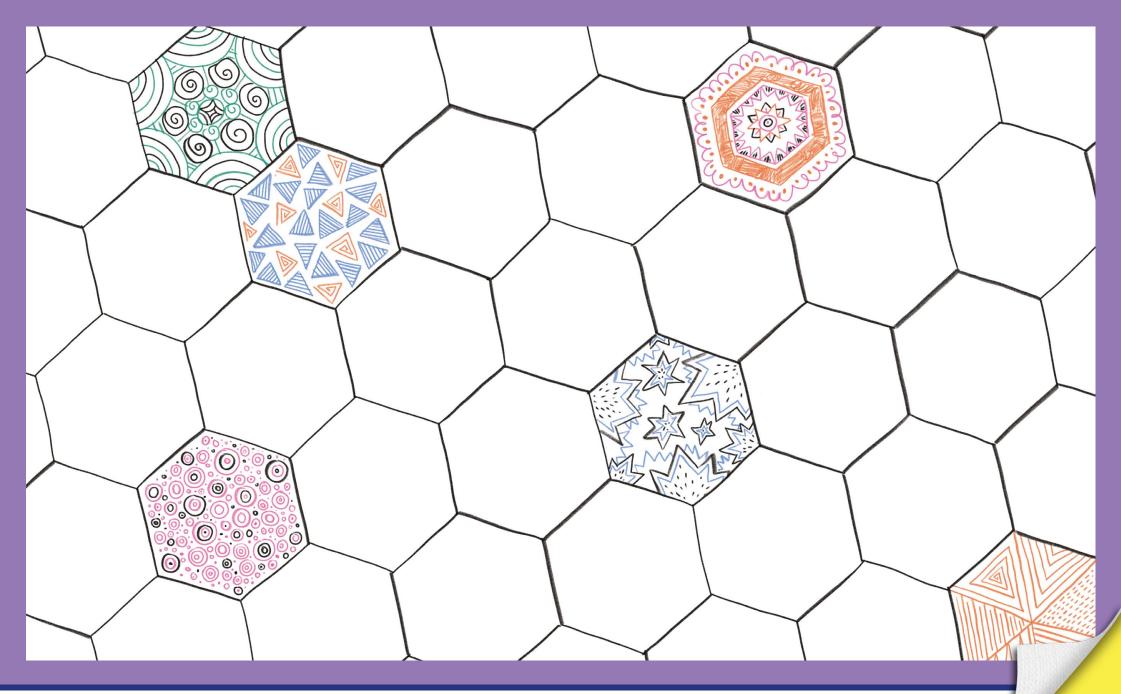
Massaging tense parts of your body can make stressful feelings shrink.





Usborne Activities







Copyright © Usborne Publishing Limited, 2021. Illustrations and doodles by Harry Briggs



Ahhh. And relaaaaax.



Put worries to one side and fill this sheet with colourful doodles



Copyright © Usborne Publishing Limited, 2021. Illustrations and doodles by Harry Briggs









Copyright © Usborne Publishing Limited, 2021. Illustrations and doodles by Harry Briggs



WORRY BOX

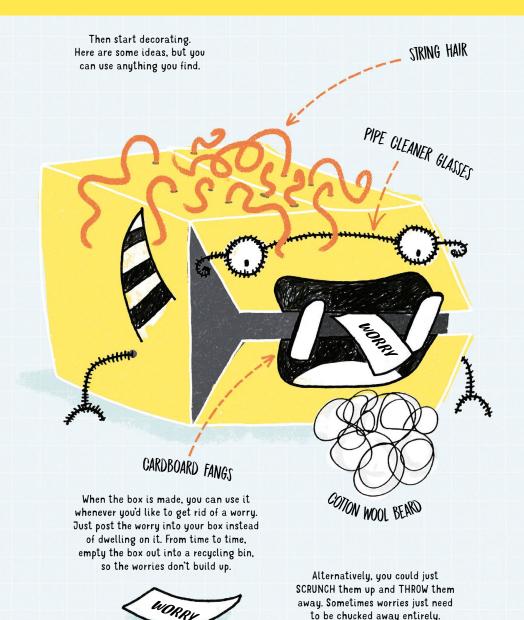
Writing down a worry helps to get it OUT OF YOUR HEAD. Try making a worry box to get rid of worries you're jotting down. Turn the box into a creature, and imagine it EATING up the worries.

YOU WILL NEED:

AN EMPTY ENVELOPE, JAR, TISSUE BOX OR TUB

Add eyes, and any other features you like.

The opening will be the mouth.





Usborne Activities

Copyright © Usborne Publishing Limited, 2019. Illustrations by Cristina Martin Recasens



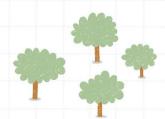
UNWORRY

Design your own UNWORRY ISLAND, a place you can imagine and visit whenever you need to, especially at bedtime if worries are stopping you from sleeping.

What do you eat? Fruit from the trees? Fish from the sea? An endless supply of ice cream from a cafe? It doesn't have to be realistic. This is YOUR unworry island – it can be absolutely anything you want, as long as there are no worries there.



What's the weather like?



Where do you stay? A hut? A treehouse? An igloo?

Who else is there with you? Or are you on your own?

The more you use your island to relax, the more helpful it'll be. Scientists call this process CONDITIONING. You train your body to RELAX whenever you imagine the island. So don't just visit the island once, pop back again and again, and add or change things whenever you like.



Usborne Activities

Copyright © Usborne Publishing Limited, 2019. Illustrations by Cristina Martin Recasens



LIMERICKS

Keep your brain busy and make yourself chuckle by writing some humorous poems called LIMERICKS. Limericks work like this:

The first, second and fifth lines rhyme, and each of these lines has 8 or 9 syllables.

- 1 An elderly fellow called Keith
- 2 Had mislaid his set of false teeth.
- 3 They'd been left on a chair,
- 4 He forgot they were there,
- 5 Sat down and was bitten beneath.



Each of these lines has 5 or 6 syllables.



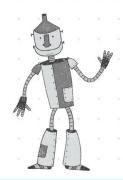
Limericks are often silly and funny.

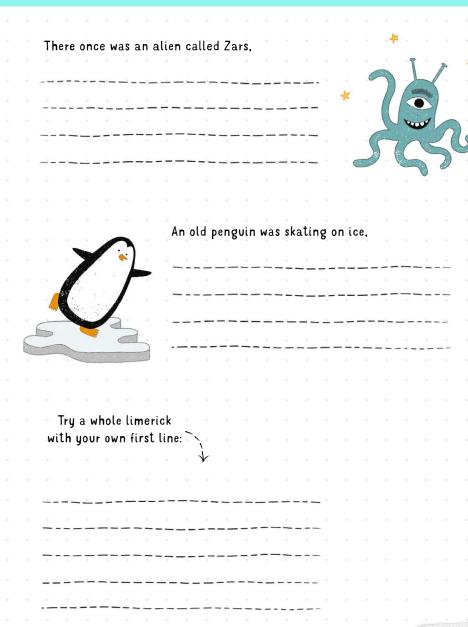
Try finishing off these limericks.

Use a pencil so you can change it

if you want to.

Τ	here	was	a	you	ng	mai	n ma	ade	of 1	iņ,		
			_				_					
-							,	-			-	
_												







Copyright © Usborne Publishing Limited, 2019. Illustrations by Cristina Martin Recasens



