

African Animal Yoga

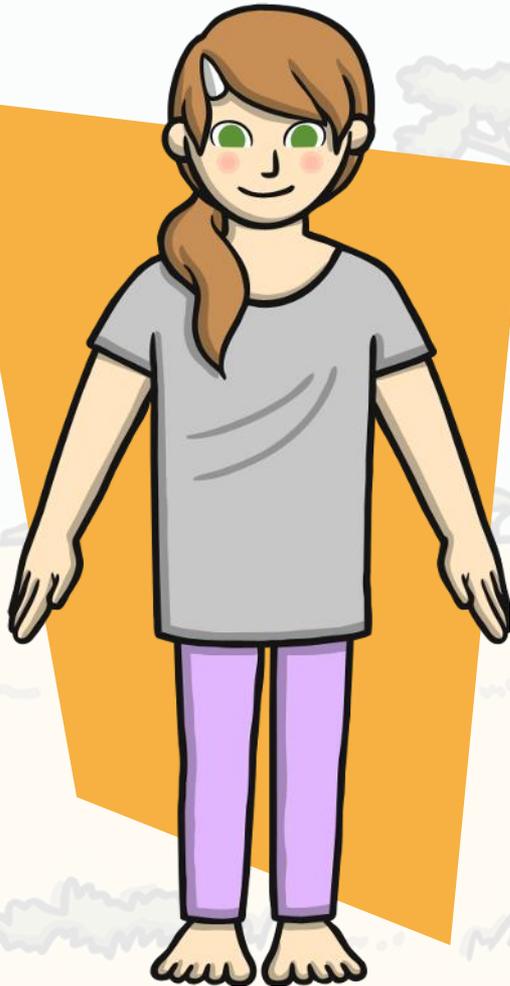


Preparation and Safety

Age	5 - 11
National Curriculum	Develop balance, agility and co-ordination.
Time	Approximately 20 minutes but can be flexible according to age and session time.
Prep	Session to happen on a carpeted floor or mats with enough space to stretch out arms and legs. If possible, have a bag with animals, pictures and stories inside to promote discussion.
Safety	Hold each pose for at least two breaths and always change sides when instructed to. Keep breathing, move slowly into the pose, never overstretch and if any pain is felt stop immediately. Have Fun!
Script	Print the script to help prompt your yoga story. Or make up your own!

Mountain Pose

Tadasana



Benefits	Improves posture, strengthens core, muscles and legs.
1	Stand tall with your weight balanced evenly on your feet.
2	Firm your thigh muscles and pull in your tummy.
3	Press your shoulders back and hang your arms beside your torso.
4	Breathe deeply and hold as long as needed (at least two long breaths).

Giraffe Pose

Chair Pose: Utkatasana



Benefits	Strengthens legs, stretches shoulders and chest.
1	Start in mountain pose.
2	Exhale, and bend your knees as if you were sitting in a chair.
3	Reach your arms towards the ceiling, with your palms facing each other.
4	Hold this pose and breathe.

Tree Pose

Vrikshasana



Benefits	Improves balance; strengthens thighs, calves, and ankles; stretches legs and chest; develops concentration.
1	Begin in mountain pose.
2	Lift your right foot, turning your knee out; place your foot below your left knee.
3	Press your hands together.
4	Raise arms overhead, and look up to your hands if possible.
5	Return hands to your chest, and lower your right leg.
6	Repeat with left leg.

Flamingo Pose

Rainbow Pose



Benefits	Stretches arms, abdominals, spine, and chest; calms the mind.
1	Raise both hands over your head.
2	Drop one hand by your side, exhale, and arch the other over your body.
3	Hold this position.
4	Repeat on the other side.

Elephant Pose

Rainbow Pose



Benefits	
w	Stretches legs and back, relieves stress and calms the mind.
1	Bend at the hips.
2	Let arms hang low then claps fingers together.
3	Swing arms from side to side like a trunk. Swing whole body from side to side to walk like an elephant.

Snake Pose

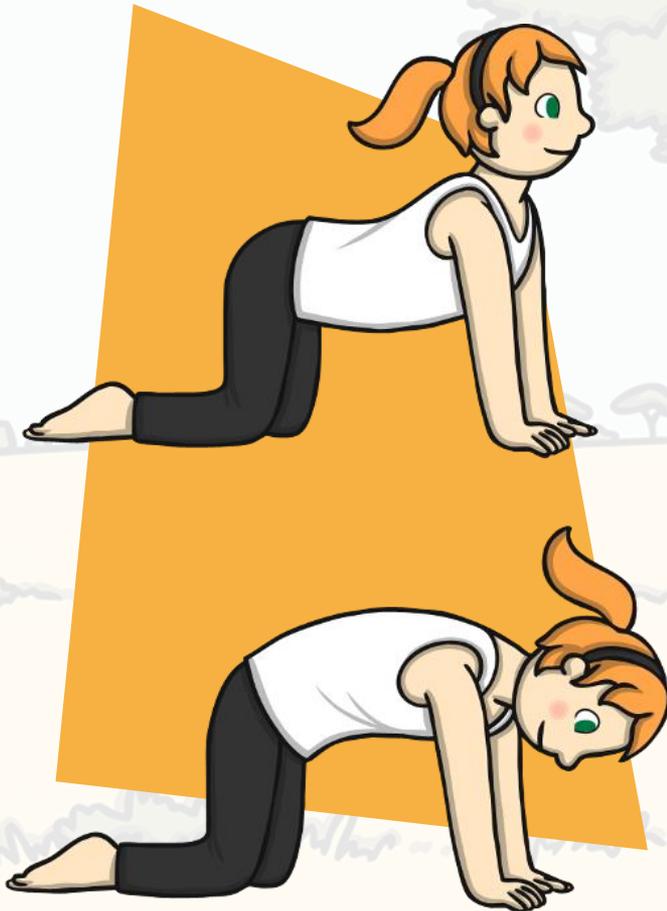
Salabhasana



Benefits	Strengthens spine and backs of arms and legs; stretches shoulders, chest, and belly; improves posture; helps relieve stress.
1	Begin by lying on your tummy.
2	Exhale, and lift your head and upper torso off the floor.
3	Gaze forward or slightly upward.
4	Hold this position, then release.

Zebra Pose

Cat Cow Pose: Marjaryasana Bitilasana



Benefits	Stretches torso and neck, gently massages spine and internal organs.
1	Start by kneeling on hands and knees. Make sure hands are below shoulders, and knees are below hips.
2	Inhale, look up to the ceiling, and allow your belly to sink toward the floor.
3	Exhale, round your back towards the ceiling, and look at your belly.
4	Repeat.

Lion Pose

Simhasana



Benefits	Stretches the hips, thighs, and ankles; calms the mind; relieves stress and fatigue.
1	Start on your knees, then sit back onto your heels.
2	Spread your fingers out and press your palms into your knees.
3	Take a deep breath in through your nose.
4	Open your mouth, stretch out your tongue, open your eyes wide, and let out your breath through your mouth with a silent "ROAR" .
5	Repeat a few times.

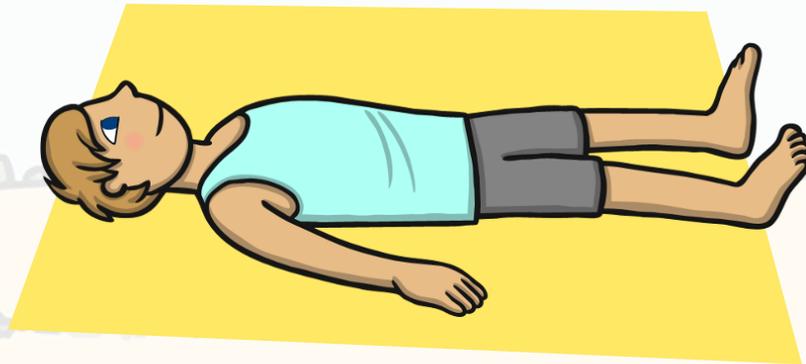
Butterfly Pose



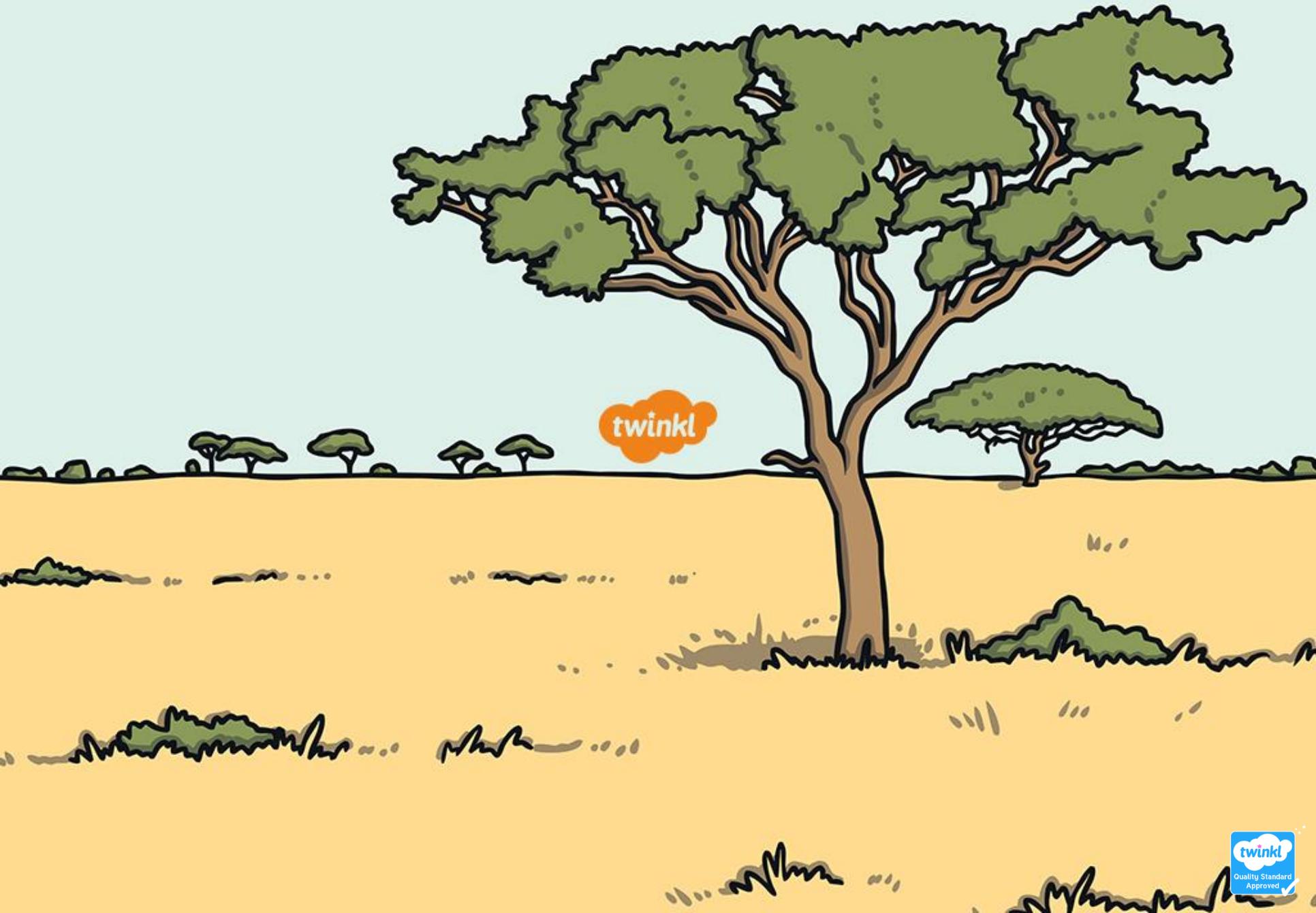
Benefits	Calms the body and mind, helps relieve stress, headaches and fatigue.
1	Begin by sitting with soles of feet together.
2	Touch fingers to the side of your head.
3	Gently bounce your knees to flap your butterfly wings, and move your fingers to wiggle your butterfly antennae.
4	Exhale, and slowly lower your hands back to your lap.

Relaxation Under a Tree

Resting Pose: Savasana



Benefits	Calms the body and mind, helps relieve stress, headaches and fatigue.
1	Lay down on your back, with arms next to your body and legs slightly apart.
2	Close your eyes, focus on deep breathing and relaxation. For full benefit, relax for 2-5 minutes depending on age.



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