qigong exercises for beginners

qigong exercises for beginners are a powerful way to enhance your physical health, mental clarity, and emotional balance. This comprehensive guide explores the foundational principles of qigong, its rich history, and the specific benefits it offers to newcomers. Readers will discover the most effective beginner-friendly qigong movements and breathing techniques, learn how to establish a consistent practice, and receive valuable tips for integrating qigong into daily life. The article is designed to be both informative and practical, making it easy to understand and apply qigong exercises for beginners. Whether your goal is stress reduction, improved focus, or gentle physical fitness, you'll find everything you need to start your qigong journey with confidence. Continue reading to uncover essential qigong exercises, safety tips, and expert advice tailored for beginners.

- Understanding Qigong: Origins and Philosophy
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Understanding Qigong: Origins and Philosophy

Qigong is an ancient Chinese practice that harmonizes the body, mind, and spirit through gentle movements, focused breathing, and meditation. The word "qigong" translates to "energy work" or "cultivating vital energy," reflecting its core aim of balancing and enhancing life force (qi). Dating back thousands of years, qigong exercises for beginners draw from traditional Chinese medicine, martial arts, and spiritual philosophies. It is practiced worldwide for its holistic benefits and accessibility to people of all ages and fitness levels. Understanding the roots and philosophy behind qigong helps beginners appreciate its depth and approach their practice with mindfulness and respect.

Core Benefits of Qigong Exercises for Beginners

Qigong exercises for beginners offer a diverse range of health benefits, making them popular among those seeking gentle yet effective wellness routines. Regular practice supports both physical and mental well-being. By integrating qigong into daily life, beginners can experience improvements in flexibility, balance, and stress management.

- Enhanced energy and vitality
- Reduced stress and anxiety
- Improved circulation and joint mobility
- Greater mental clarity and focus
- Strengthened immune function
- Better sleep quality
- Support for chronic pain relief

These holistic benefits make qigong exercises for beginners an excellent choice for those looking to support their overall health without strenuous activity. The gentle nature of qigong also makes it suitable for seniors, people recovering from injuries, and anyone new to mindful movement.

Essential Principles in Qigong Practice

Qigong exercises for beginners are rooted in several important principles that guide safe and effective practice. Understanding these principles ensures that newcomers get the most out of each session and build a strong foundation for future progress.

Relaxation and Mindfulness

Central to qigong is the concept of relaxation—both physically and mentally. Beginners should approach each movement with a relaxed posture and an open, attentive mind. Mindfulness helps practitioners stay present, deepen their connection to the breath, and cultivate inner calm.

Breath Awareness

Breathing is a key aspect of qigong practice. Slow, deep, and rhythmic breaths facilitate the flow of qi, enhance relaxation, and support gentle movement. Beginners are encouraged to pay attention to their breathing

patterns and coordinate breath with motion for optimal results.

Gentle Movements

Qigong exercises for beginners focus on gentle, flowing movements that promote energy circulation without causing strain. Movements should feel comfortable and harmonious, encouraging a sense of ease and fluidity throughout the body.

Fundamental Qigong Exercises for Beginners

Starting with simple and accessible qigong exercises is crucial for beginners. These movements are designed to awaken energy, release tension, and improve balance. Practicing these foundational exercises regularly will help newcomers build confidence and experience the healing effects of qigong.

Wuji Standing Posture

The Wuji stance is the foundation of many qigong routines. Stand with feet shoulder-width apart, knees slightly bent, arms relaxed by your sides, and shoulders loose. Focus on grounding yourself and aligning your posture, feeling rooted yet relaxed.

Opening the Chest

This exercise involves gently raising your arms to chest height while inhaling, then opening them outward as if embracing the air. Exhale as you relax and bring the arms back to your sides. This movement promotes lung capacity and heart health.

Arm Circles

With arms extended to the sides, slowly make small circles, gradually increasing the size. This helps loosen shoulder joints, stimulates energy flow, and prepares the body for deeper movements.

Cloud Hands

Cloud Hands is a classic qigong exercise for beginners. Shift your weight from side to side while moving your hands in a circular, wave-like pattern in front of your body. This gentle motion enhances coordination, balance, and relaxation.

Spinal Twist

Stand upright, gently twist your torso from side to side, letting your arms swing loosely. This exercise increases spinal flexibility and encourages the release of stored tension.

Breathing Techniques in Qigong

Breathing is integral to qigong exercises for beginners, as it supports energy circulation and relaxation. Learning to synchronize breath with movement is essential for maximizing the benefits of qigong practice.

Abdominal Breathing

Begin by placing your hands on your lower abdomen. As you inhale, feel your belly expand gently. Exhale slowly, allowing it to contract. This technique encourages deep, diaphragmatic breathing that calms the nervous system and supports qi flow.

Coordinated Breath and Movement

In qigong, each movement is paired with either an inhale or an exhale. For example, lifting your arms may coincide with an inhale, while lowering them matches an exhale. This mindful coordination enhances relaxation and promotes energy balance throughout the practice.

Creating an Effective Qigong Routine

Consistency is key to reaping the rewards of qigong exercises for beginners. Developing a personalized practice routine helps beginners form healthy habits and progress steadily. Start with short, manageable sessions and gradually build up as your confidence grows.

Setting Aside Time and Space

Choose a quiet, comfortable area where you can move freely. Aim for 10-20 minutes per session, ideally at the same time each day to establish rhythm and routine.

Combining Movements and Breath

Begin with gentle warm-ups, progress to core exercises like Cloud Hands or Opening the Chest, and end with a few minutes of standing meditation or

mindful breathing. This structured approach ensures a balanced and holistic session.

- 1. Warm up with gentle stretching or Wuji Standing Posture (2-3 minutes)
- 2. Practice 2-3 fundamental qigong exercises (10-15 minutes)
- 3. Finish with breathing exercises or brief meditation (2-5 minutes)

Common Mistakes and Safety Tips for Beginners

While qigong exercises for beginners are generally safe, it is important to be aware of common pitfalls and follow basic safety guidelines. Paying attention to proper form and listening to your body helps prevent discomfort and ensures a positive experience.

Overexertion

Beginners should avoid pushing themselves too hard or attempting advanced movements before mastering the basics. Qigong is a gentle practice; discomfort or pain is a signal to pause and reassess your technique.

Ignoring Posture

Maintaining correct posture is crucial for effective energy flow and injury prevention. Stand upright, relax your shoulders, and keep your joints loose to support fluid movement.

Consistency Over Intensity

Regular, moderate practice yields better results than occasional, intense sessions. Focus on developing consistency and mindfulness rather than striving for perfection or speed.

Consulting with a Professional

If you have chronic health conditions or are recovering from injury, consult a qualified qigong instructor or healthcare provider before beginning a new practice.

Frequently Asked Questions About Qigong for Beginners

Beginners often have questions about qigong, its benefits, and best practices. Addressing these common inquiries can help newcomers feel confident and informed as they start their qigong journey.

Q: What is the best time of day to practice qigong exercises for beginners?

A: The ideal time to practice qigong is in the morning or early evening, when you can focus without distractions. However, any time that fits your schedule and allows for consistency is suitable.

Q: How often should beginners practice qigong exercises?

A: Beginners are encouraged to practice qigong at least three to five times per week. Short, regular sessions are more effective than infrequent, lengthy practices.

Q: Do I need special equipment or clothing for qigong?

A: Qigong requires no special equipment. Comfortable, loose-fitting clothing is recommended to allow for free movement and relaxation.

Q: Can qigong exercises for beginners help with stress and anxiety?

A: Yes, qigong is widely recognized for its ability to reduce stress and anxiety through gentle movement, mindful breathing, and relaxation techniques.

Q: Are qigong exercises suitable for seniors or people with limited mobility?

A: Qigong is highly adaptable and can be modified for seniors and those with limited mobility. Many exercises can be performed seated or with minimal movement.

Q: How quickly will I notice benefits from qigong practice?

A: Many beginners report feeling calmer and more relaxed after just a few sessions. Physical and mental benefits typically become more noticeable within a few weeks of consistent practice.

Q: Is qigong the same as tai chi?

A: Qigong and tai chi share similar principles, but qigong is generally simpler, with a greater focus on energy cultivation and static postures. Tai chi is a martial art with choreographed movements.

Q: Can I learn qigong exercises for beginners from online videos?

A: Online videos can be a helpful resource for learning basic qigong exercises, but attending a class or consulting with a certified instructor is ideal for ensuring proper technique and safety.

Q: Are there any risks associated with qigong practice?

A: Qigong is considered very safe for most people. However, beginners should avoid overexertion and seek guidance if they have specific health concerns.

Q: How can I stay motivated to practice qigong regularly?

A: Setting clear goals, joining a qigong group, and tracking your progress can help maintain motivation and make qigong a rewarding part of your daily routine.

Qigong Exercises For Beginners

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Qigong Exercises for Beginners: A Gentle Path to Wellness

Are you searching for a gentle yet powerful way to improve your health and well-being? Look no

further than Qigong, an ancient Chinese practice that combines movement, meditation, and breathing techniques to cultivate inner harmony and vitality. This guide provides a beginner-friendly introduction to Qigong exercises, offering simple yet effective practices you can easily incorporate into your daily routine. We'll explore foundational movements, breathing techniques, and essential tips to get you started on your Qigong journey.

Getting Started: Understanding the Basics of Qigong

Before diving into specific exercises, it's crucial to understand the fundamental principles of Qigong. Qigong, often translated as "energy cultivation," aims to enhance the flow of Qi (vital energy) throughout the body. This improved energy flow contributes to better physical health, mental clarity, and emotional balance. Unlike high-intensity workouts, Qigong emphasizes slow, deliberate movements, mindful breathing, and a relaxed state of mind.

The Importance of Posture and Alignment

Proper posture is paramount in Qigong. Begin by standing with your feet shoulder-width apart, knees slightly bent, and your spine naturally aligned. Maintain a relaxed yet upright posture, allowing your body to feel grounded and stable. Avoid tension in your shoulders and neck. This foundational posture provides a stable base for all subsequent movements.

Mastering the Breath: The Foundation of Qigong

Breathing is the cornerstone of Qigong practice. Most exercises involve abdominal breathing, also known as diaphragmatic breathing. Focus on slow, deep breaths, allowing your belly to expand as you inhale and contract as you exhale. This type of breathing helps to calm the nervous system, reduce stress, and enhance the flow of Qi.

Simple Qigong Exercises for Beginners

Here are three easy-to-learn Qigong exercises perfect for beginners:

1. The Standing Meditation (Zhan Zhuang): Cultivating Stillness

This exercise involves maintaining a relaxed, upright posture for a specific duration. Start by standing with your feet shoulder-width apart, knees slightly bent, and your spine aligned. Close your eyes gently and focus on your breath. Maintain this posture for 5-10 minutes, gradually increasing the duration as you become more comfortable. The stillness cultivates inner peace and strengthens your core.

2. The Eight Brocades (Ba Duan Jin): Strengthening and Energizing

The Eight Brocades is a series of eight gentle movements designed to improve circulation, flexibility, and overall well-being. Each movement has a specific focus, such as strengthening the spine, improving lung capacity, or promoting digestion. You can find numerous videos and instructions online that demonstrate each movement in detail. Start with one or two movements daily and gradually add more as you progress.

3. The Spinal Cord Breathing (Shuǐ Zhī): Harmonizing Energy Flow

Spinal cord breathing is a simple yet powerful technique that enhances energy flow along the spine. Sit comfortably with your spine straight. Visualize energy flowing up and down your spine with each breath. Inhale deeply, focusing on the energy rising, and exhale slowly, visualizing the energy descending. Repeat this for 5-10 minutes. This exercise helps to release tension and improve energy circulation.

Tips for Beginners

Start slowly: Begin with shorter sessions and gradually increase the duration and intensity of your practice.

Be patient and consistent: Qigong is a journey, not a race. Consistency is key to experiencing its benefits.

Listen to your body: Pay attention to your body's signals and rest when needed. Find a qualified instructor: Consider taking classes from a qualified Qigong instructor for

personalized guidance and feedback.

Practice regularly: Aim for daily practice, even if it's just for a few minutes.

Conclusion

Qigong exercises offer a gentle yet effective path towards improved physical and mental well-being. By incorporating these simple exercises into your daily routine, you can cultivate inner harmony, enhance energy flow, and experience the profound benefits of this ancient practice. Remember to start slowly, be patient with yourself, and listen to your body. Enjoy the journey!

FAQs

- 1. Do I need any special equipment for Qigong? No, you don't need any special equipment to practice Qigong. Comfortable clothing is all you need.
- 2. How often should I practice Qigong? Ideally, practice daily, even if it's just for a few minutes. Consistency is more important than duration.
- 3. Is Qigong suitable for people with health conditions? While generally safe, it's advisable to consult your doctor before starting Qigong if you have any pre-existing health conditions.
- 4. Will I see results immediately? The benefits of Qigong are cumulative. You may not see immediate dramatic results, but with consistent practice, you'll likely notice improvements in your energy levels, flexibility, and overall well-being.
- 5. Can Qigong help with stress reduction? Yes, Qigong's focus on mindful movement and deep breathing can significantly reduce stress and promote relaxation.

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balance and augment Qi, or "life force." This thorough volume presents many different forms of Qigong in detail and through fully illustrated exercises. Included are an explanation of the principles of Qigong, warming-up exercises, breathing exercises, and a guide to massaging the inner organs. The authors have also provided a table that describes the various exercises, listing their physical benefits and classifying them according to level of difficulty, so that readers can practice their own routines.

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qiqong exercises for beginners: Simple Chi Kung Mantak Chia, Lee Holden, 2011-12-30 Distills the many different Chi Kung practices into one simple daily routine for abundant health, calmness, and mental clarity • Provides step-by-step illustrated instructions for a complete yet easy daily Chi Kung routine • Perfect for beginners and ideal as a warm-up to more advanced practices • Clears physical and mental stress, stimulates healing and disease prevention, detoxifies the body, releases tensions, improves circulation, and works to develop flexibility, strength, resiliency, and suppleness Within every person there is a place full of energy, health, and happiness. Practicing Chi Kung allows us to visit this place of inner vitality and harmony, clearing physical and mental stress, detoxifying the body and mind, and helping us return to our natural state of abundant health, calmness, and mental clarity. An ideal complement to the treatment of chronic pain, asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure, headaches, and even heart disease and cancer, Chi Kung is a way to take control of your physical, mental, and spiritual health and live a long and healthy life. In Simple Chi Kung, Taoist master Mantak Chia distills thousands of Chi Kung practices into one simple daily routine perfect for beginners and ideal as a warm-up to more advanced practices. Designed to relax our muscles, loosen the joints, improve circulation, and develop flexibility, strength, resiliency, and suppleness, the gentle, flowing movements of Chi Kung mirror the movements of nature and help practitioners connect to their own inner flow of chi, clearing blockages and stagnation in our life-force energy and tapping in to our natural powers of healing and disease prevention. Walking readers step-by-step through each exercise, from movement work with the knees, hips, and spine to internal energy work through controlled breathing, Master Chia explains how daily practice of Chi Kung cultivates life-force energy, a stronger immune system, emotional balance, and spiritual awareness, transforming the patterns and assumptions that limit our body and mind as well as enhancing our connection to nature and the universe.

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Cohen, author of The Way of Qigong Reduce stress, release pain, and create bodily harmony with this introduction to qigong and the yin/yang balance of tai chi, the ancient Chinese arts of movement meditation. This accessible book features information about these practices as well as insights into their benefits, providing tools for replenishing inner resources and managing energy levels. It also offers advice on making healthier choices in everyday life that will support the body's natural capacity for energy, balance, and well-being.

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advice on how to correct these.

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you'd be tempted to call it magical, if it weren't so completely natural. Here is a perfect introduction to chi that explains in a direct and simple way what it is and why it is essential to a healthy and vital life. It provides an easy-to-understand explanation of chi, and then helps readers recognize, develop, and strengthen their own chi through specific breathing techniques and basic exercises, all demonstrated by the author. There are many books on chi development through T'ai Chi and qigong practice, but this one goes deeper to enable you to understand the fundamental principles as you cultivate it. This book is a reference for alternative health professionals such as acupuncturists and shiatsu therapists and their patients, as well as for anyone who practices T'ai Chi, qigong, aikido, and other chi-based martial arts.

qiqong exercises for beginners: Qiqong Garri Garripoli, 2010-01-01 Qiqong (pronounced chee-gong) is an ancient Chinese health-care modality that has fascinated people throughout the millennia. Based on the fundamental principles of traditional Chinese medicine, Qigong is a system that teaches us to understand Qi, our bioelectric life force, and use it to heal ourselves and others. Qigong: Essence of the Healing Dance will give readers some of the basics of the outward exercises that are normally associated with the practice of Qigong, as well as detailing movements from such systems as Wuji Qigong, Bagua Xun Dao Gong and Shaolin Qigong. More than merely outlining these practices, this book will take readers on a journey of exploration into the essence of this fascinating, though little understood, healing practice. Masters from around the world—such as the ninety-two-year-old Duan Zhi Liang of Beijing, Canadian healer Effie Poy Yew Chow and American Jerry Johnson—contribute their personal insights into the wonders of Qigong. People from various walks of life, all of whom have achieved healing as a result of practicing Qigong, share their powerful experiences. Author Garri Garripoli, himself a practitioner of Qigong for the past twenty years, renders the book fascinating yet easy-to-read. He expertly guides readers on this once-in-a-lifetime journey, inspiring them to look deeper into healing in order to discover how to move beyond the standards and limitations of Western medicine. Qigong: Essence of the Healing Dance shows readers that we all carry within ourselves the ability to heal, and encourages them to tap into that innate gift and dance their own dance of life. Readers are sure to find this book fascinating, even life changing. It is a must-read for anyone intrigued by the mystique of ancient Eastern healing arts or seeking a daily practice that promotes and maintains full-body well-being.

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qigong exercises for beginners: The Way of Energy Kam Chuen Lam, 1991-11-15 A recognized master of Tai Chi gives step-by-step instructions on the ancient art of Chi Kung--Chinese medicine in a physical form. Readers discover how practicing Chi Kung can prevent and treat a wide range of ailments, strengthen the immune system, improve concentration and memory, regenerate the nervous system and more. 10 full-color photographs; 90 two-color illustrations.

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life. Where gi flows there is health, vitality, strength, and wellbeing. Unfortunately, for various reasons this 'gi' can become inactive in people, like going to sleep. This can be due to stress, injury, ill health, long periods of inactivity and other factors. When this happens, the energy withdraws to the centre and it is much harder to identify and feel its flow. Weakness, sickness, injury, general illness, and low energy results. Waking the Qi presents a series of twenty gigong exercises designed to activate your life force energy and get it flowing through your body again. When the gi is flowing, not only are you healthier, stronger and feel better, but you can also actually feel your living energy more easily. This makes it easier for you to get the benefits from Taiji (Tai Chi), Qigong, and other energy arts you may practice, as when you can actually feel your energy you are more able to assess whether your practice is achieving its intended results, and make changes as necessary. In Waking the Qi, the role of the Mind, Body, and Breath is explained for each exercise so that students can gain a practical understanding of what they are doing and how it works. The practices in this book are particularly useful for anyone who has become weak and debilitated from prolonged illness, has a stiff or sore back and neck, weak legs, suffers from stress and anxiety, wants a stronger immune system, better digestion, improved circulation, easier breathing, or simply to have more energy. Whatever your circumstances waking your gi is sure to enhance your health, vitality, and awarenes of your own energy.

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gigong exercises for beginners: The Qigong Workbook for Anxiety Kam Chuen Lam, 2014-06-01 We live in a fast-paced, busy world, and many of us are stressed out and anxious as a result. If you suffer from anxiety but have found little relief from modern western treatments, or if you are looking for complimentary treatment, the ancient practice of gigong—which can be understood as the cultivation of internal energy—may offer you relief. Qigong is rooted in Chinese philosophy and medicine, and it utilizes breathing, movement, and awareness exercises to promote healing and aid in meditation. In The Qigong Workbook for Anxiety, world-renowned and respected gigong master Kam Chuen Lam presents the first workbook for overcoming anxiety problems utilizing traditional Chinese energy-focusing exercises. By following these simple and accessible step-by-step exercises, readers will learn to transform feelings of anxiety into resilience and inner strength. The workbook also contains helpful illustrations to help you carry out these exercises. In the book, Lam will help you think about anxiety, and yourself, in a different way—as a whole. You'll also learn to stop resisting moments of anxiety and other strong emotions, but rather to embrace them within the larger flow of your body's energy field. By doing this, you will ultimately strengthen and cultivate the natural energy you possess. Author Kam Chuen Lam has been a traditional Chinese healer for over forty years, and is an internationally respected authority on the Chinese health systems of Chi Kung and Tai Chi. To find out more, visit www.lamkamchuen.org.

qigong exercises for beginners: Managing Stress with Qigong Gordon Faulkner, 2011-03-15 The ancient Chinese practice of Qigong combines physical movement with gentle breathing techniques to promote harmony between body and mind, and is quickly gaining popularity in the West. This step-by-step guide to managing stress through Qigong begins by looking at stress and our response to it from both an Eastern and a Western perspective. The core of the book provides a program with first a series of carefully-designed stress relief exercises, followed by a series of gentler stress prevention exercises, all of which are clearly explained with easy-to-follow instructions for each of the steps, and fully illustrated. The author explains the theory underpinning the Qigong exercises in terms of the principles of Chinese Medicine, including Yin and Yang, The Five Elements and the circulation of energy (Qi) through the meridians. Extensively trialled with Maggie's Cancer Care Centres, and designed specifically to fit around a busy lifestyle, the Qigong program set out in this book will help to reduce stress, decrease anxiety and restore energy. This practical book will help anyone who is prone to stress, regardless of their level of ability or experience of Qigong. It will also be a useful resource for Taijiquan and Qigong instructors,

alternative therapists, and other professionals working with clients who are affected by stress.

qigong exercises for beginners: Qigong Basics Ellae Elinwood, 2023-04-18 Qigong, a holistic approach to health and wellness, focuses on gentle movement, breathing, and meditation. Qigong Basics teaches you all the fundamentals of this ancient Chinese discipline in a clear and easy-to-understand manner. Related to tai chi, this practice engages the mind and body, while helping to strengthen muscles, find balance, and reduce stress. This introductory book contains the following vital information: The origins of Qigong--its philosophy, history, and different styles How to find a teacher and a class that are right for you Getting ready for your first class--what happens in a Qigong class? The essential elements--breathing, stances, grounding and expansions How to complement your Qigong training with meditation and qi exercises Powerful ways to promote health and well-being through specific sequences Resources to help you develop your knowledge and understanding of Qigong Whether you're just getting started, or you've already been training for a year or two, Qigong Basics offers an easy to read, yet comprehensive introduction to the sport.

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qigong exercises for beginners: Dragon and Tiger Medical Qigong, Volume 1 Bruce Frantzis, 2010 Practiced by millions in China to release stress and maintain robust health, Dragon and Tiger qigong is also used to help prevent and heal cancer and to mitigate the effects of radiation and chemotherapy. It uses simple body movements to accomplish the same chi balancing as acupuncture. Each movement is designed to stimulate not just a single meridian but groups of meridians. In Chinese medicine, the tiger is a metaphor for a strong, healthy liver and powerful muscles, and the dragon is a metaphor for healthy and strong lungs. The Dragon and Tiger form accomplishes three major changes in the body necessary for healing: it releases stagnant chi energy; increases the speed, strength, and evenness of the circulation of chi, blood, and other fluids; and quickly raises the body's energy levels to boost its natural healing capacities.

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stress empowers you to dissolve tension, find serenity, and achieve balance in the midst of today's hectic world, leaving you recharged and ready to embrace life's challenges. It stimulates and circulates your body's natural energies using breath, movement, and mental focus. After just a few minutes of Qigong, you will notice your energy is better, your mind clearer, and your overall mood calmer, too the great thing about Qigong is that it can be practiced on its own or as a complement to other activities. YOU'LL UNCOVER... • The Qigong master who killed cancer cells • The little-known 5th force in physics, • The advanced research on subtle energy • The extraordinarily gifted students of superhuman schools • The bridge that connects science and spirituality • And SO MUCH MORE! An essential aspect of Qi Gong is relaxation and mindfulness, a factor that is undervalued in many other training methods The ancient masters of Qi Gong. As well as many other masters of Asian martial arts, observed nature, animals and derived from them their exercises to strengthen and relax the body Enter the fascinating world of fascia now and start doing the simple exercises today.

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or rock collector! You too will benefit from this simple, but profoundly healing system and enjoy a life with less pain, less stress and more energy! What more could you want?! If you really want to build a solid foundation for practising Qigong but don't know where to start, this is the book for you.

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