

## How to Make Your Own Time Capsule

Usually we don't think about the artifacts we leave behind. But by making time capsules, we can decide what message to send to the future about our own lives. The American Museum of Natural History has its own time capsule. It was started in 1999, to be opened in the year 3000. They chose items that would tell people of the future about typical daily life in a small American town in 1999. Those items included a cell phone, a unicorn Beanie Baby, photographs and coins, and many other objects.

### What You'll Need:

- A box with a lid
- Items for your time capsule (5 to 10 things)
- Materials to decorate your box (wrapping paper, markers, pencils, scissors, tape, old magazines)

### What to Do:

1. Think about what messages you want your time capsule to send. You could focus on a special time in your life, like summer camp or fourth grade. Or you might highlight a part of your life, like learning ballet or playing on a baseball team.
2. Make a list of items that will get your message across. What objects would tell about your summer at camp, or what it's like to be part of a team? (If you use things that are important to you, make sure you're willing to part with them.)
3. Collect the items. If you can't find an item or decide it's too valuable, you could draw a picture, cut one out of a magazine, or print one from a Web site. Or think about another object that might send the same message. **You can also fill out the worksheet included in this packet to help you fill your capsule.** When you're done, ask yourself if the items you've picked match the message you want to send.
4. Decorate your box. Think about what message or images should go on the outside. You could cover your box with your own drawings, a poem, wrapping paper, a wish for the future, today's newspaper, or a collage of images from magazines. Decide when your time capsule should be opened and write the date on the lid.
5. Put your items in the box and tape the lid.
6. Now it's time to put away your time capsule. You can hide it or give it to a parent to put away in a safe place. Make a note of where you hid it!

Feel free to send us a picture of your time capsule by emailing it to [morrisville@midyork.org](mailto:morrisville@midyork.org) and have it be featured on our Facebook page!

# Time Capsule Questions

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

How much did it cost in 2020?

Gas: \_\_\_\_\_ Postage Stamp: \_\_\_\_\_ A Gallon of Milk: \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Life in 2020:**

Your favorite book: \_\_\_\_\_

Your favorite TV Show: \_\_\_\_\_

Your favorite movie:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your favorite food: \_\_\_\_\_

Your best friend: \_\_\_\_\_

Your favorite thing to do:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Your Future:**

What do you think you'll be doing when your time capsule is opened?

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What will you look like?

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