

# Time Capsule

## Description

Have you ever wished you could travel backward or forward through time? Making a time capsule enables you to do just that. You collect or make items representing a specific place in time, and you carefully label them and put them in envelopes. Colors, shapes, and sizes of envelopes may vary according to the configuration of the item to be kept. When you place objects in the time capsule, you record the name of the item on a Time Capsule Log, and all the envelopes, messages, and special items are placed in a durable container for safekeeping. The time capsule is then preserved for the future. Once time capsules are committed to a resting place for a specific period of time, a dedication speech is given at an official closing ceremony. It is also customary to say a few words on the occasion of the opening of a time capsule.

## Planning

1. Consider what information on the topic you are researching could be shared by making a time capsule. Examples of time capsule projects are settings of novels (*Diary of Anne Frank*), times of interesting periods in world history, sites of famous political battles (Battle of Bunker Hill), locations of scientific adventures (Cape Canaveral for space launches). Briefly explain what topic or theme you have chosen for your time capsule and why.
2. Prepare a list of potential artifacts that could be created and placed in a time capsule to reflect the theme you have chosen. Possible items might include a newspaper article, a postage stamp, a coin, a ribbon/badge/award, a pamphlet, a drawing or diagram, a story or poem, a map, a letter, a diary entry, a handmade toy, or an illustration copied from a textbook or reference book. Keep in mind that you must design and develop whatever items are included in the time capsule.
3. List the materials needed for each artifact, the information/research required for each one, and any problems you might encounter when constructing each one.
4. Construct the artifacts, making them look as real as possible. Try to have at least eight to ten items and try to vary them in content, format, and appearance. As you complete each artifact, place it in a series of envelopes, which can be anything from a large, brown mailing envelope, to a small letter-size envelope. The envelopes can be decorated with colored pencils, stickers, ribbons, or cut-outs—or you can even make the envelopes yourself.
5. Next, is the important step of preparing a log that becomes a checklist and a brief description of all items placed in the time capsule. This serves as a table of contents for the final project. Also critical is writing a one-page outline telling

others about the author or creator of the time capsule, including the individual's name, contact information, age, date, and personal signature.

6. Finally, after all artifacts are created, identified, and placed in their respective keepsake envelopes, locate a permanent container for these items. This can be a file box, a large tin can, a shoebox, a shopping bag, or a plastic storage box. Determine the date for both storing the time capsule and then opening it. Short speeches should happen at both of these events, and could start like this:

We are gathered here to witness the passing on of a time capsule which represents the important feelings, messages, deeds, words, and treasures of \_\_\_\_\_ ...

We are gathered here to witness the opening of a time capsule containing artifacts that represent \_\_\_\_\_, as we travel back in time to learn more about this person/event/period...

### **Assessing**

1. Use the Log Checklist for the time capsule as a basis for evaluating the quality of the items placed in the capsule. How authentic and varied were the artifacts constructed? How representative of the topic or theme were they? How well were they received by the audience? How could they have been improved?
2. Develop a rating scale to be used with the checklist and use it to rank each artifact. Write a narrative summarizing the results of your work.
3. What did you learn about yourself and your skills as you developed this project?