

FRISCO PUBLIC Library

Activities at Home

How to Make a Personal Time Capsule

Time capsules give us interesting look into the past. Time capsules try to capture what life is like at a given moment in time. Try making one for yourself or your family and wait to see how things change over the years!

Supplies

- Some sort of box – make sure it'll fit everything you want to include
- Items that you think would be interesting to the time capsule
- Duct Tape
- Writing utensil (something you can use on the outside the box)
- Decorations for the box (optional)

Choosing what to include

For a time capsule, include some things that are currently important to you. You are trying to capture what life is currently like for you. What does a day in your life look like? That could include photos, maybe some trinkets of something you really like, or maybe even a letter to your future self. Think about some things that would be interesting to look back on in 10, 20, or even 30 years from now.

Choosing an open time

Before you begin packing the time capsule, you should choose a time when you want to open the capsule. There's no right or wrong answer to this choice. Consider how long you want to hang on to a time capsule and how well the items will age in the box.

Need some inspiration?

Not sure what to include? Check out these three famous time capsules and what they included:

- Learn about one of the oldest and largest time capsules in the world at Oglethorpe University that won't be opened until May 28, 8113 – [Crypt of Civilization](#)
- Learn about the National Millennium Time Capsule buried in 1999 that will be opened in 2100 – [National Millennium Time Capsule](#)
- Learn about the time capsule placed under the cornerstone of the Massachusetts State House by Paul Revere and Samuel Adams – [Massachusetts State House Time Capsule](#)

Packing up the time capsule

- Place a bed of packing material down first so that the items don't get damaged
- Gently place what you want to put in
- Fill the rest of the box with packing material
- Seal the box shut with tape. Tape it tight enough so you are not tempted to open it early!
- On the outside box, write the open date
- (Optional) Decorate the box with fun decorations!

Choose somewhere to place the time capsule

Find somewhere safe to place the capsule. Ideally, you will need somewhere that is hidden enough so that you don't try and open the capsule early, but somewhere where it is still accessible when the time comes to open it or so that the capsule isn't forgotten if you move. In the back of a frequently used storage closet or maybe store the capsule with something that's used rarely but still easy to find like Christmas decorations.

Now all you have to do is wait!