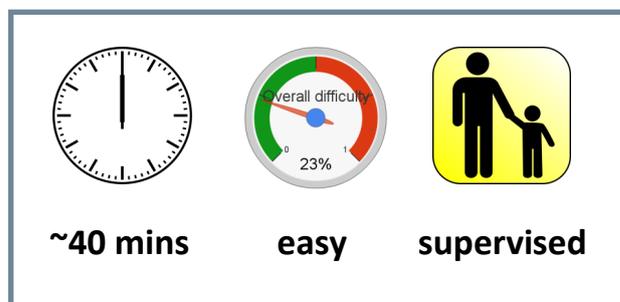
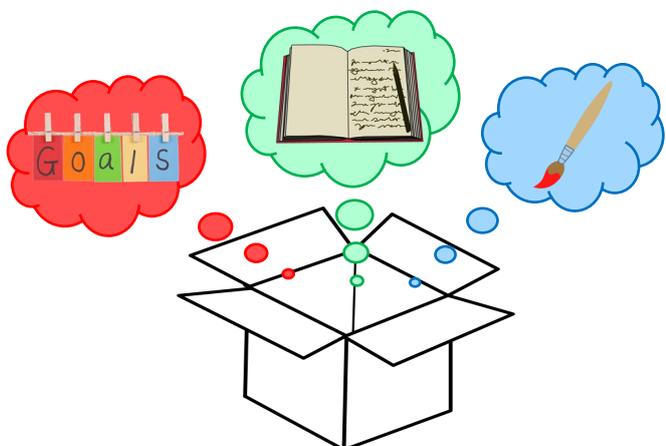


Get Creative Challenge

Make a time capsule!



~40 mins

easy

supervised

An easy children's activity to make a time capsule in an empty shoebox or weather-resistant box with items selected by the child.

You will need:

- an empty shoebox or weather-resistant box
- paper and pens
- items the child has chosen
- colouring pens, pencils or paints (optional)



Time Capsule from 1820

The Union Chain Bridge is a time capsule in itself; it is a 200-year-old piece of progressive, technologically advanced engineering, able to tell us a great deal about life in the early 19th century. Cutting edge for its day, it was the first chain suspension bridge in Europe to carry wheeled traffic and remains the oldest still in use worldwide.

Community Time Capsules

The Union Chain Bridge is currently undergoing conservation works. We, on the Union Chain Bridge Project, will work with communities on both sides of the border to create two time capsules. They will be buried at each end of the bridge after the conservation works have finished. Local people will be invited to develop and decide on the material to be included. This children's *Get Creative Challenge* was inspired by the time capsule originally placed at the site when building work began in 1819, as well as the modern ones that will be placed there in 2021-2022.



Children's Activity Learning Aims:

The *Get Creative Challenge* encourages children to develop skills in self-reflection and self-expression, promotes family discussion, and introduces the concept of time.

Get Creative Challenge

Make a time capsule!

What is a time capsule? A time capsule is a container that holds present day items, such as photos, newspapers, letters and more. It is hidden away for someone to open in the future. That person might be an older you or someone else. It is a perfect way to help people in the future to understand what it is like to live right now. Or you could keep it as a gift to yourself in years to come. Would you want to hide it for a year? Five? Ten? There's no time limit! The rules are all up to you. Shoeboxes are great for indoor safekeeping, while weather-resistant boxes are best for the outdoors.

Step 1: Research

With an adult, research some time capsules and what they contain online. To get you started...

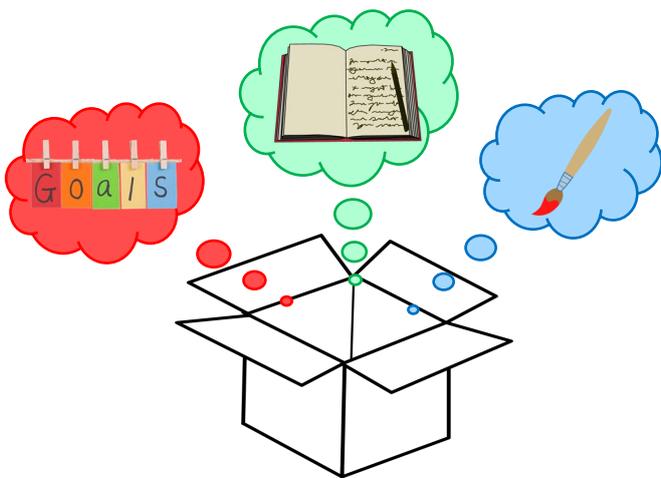
- ◇ <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20201217-time-capsule-2020-the-37-objects-that-defined-the-year>
- ◇ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-34054847>
- ◇ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/687732.stm>
- ◇ <https://voyager.jpl.nasa.gov/golden-record/>

Step 2: Imagine, discuss, record

Imagine that you found a 20-year-old time capsule in your garden. Ask your family members what they would have put in a time capsule 20 years ago. Do the items surprise you? Write down a list of the items they mention.

Step 3: Make your own time capsule

1. Find a box, such as a shoe box or a weather-proof box.
2. Choose items or make items to put in the box.
3. Leave it in a safe place for as long as you want to.
4. Re-open it in the future or leave it for someone else to open.



Hint about old technology!

Be careful about adding technology to your time capsule. For example, do you think your games console will still be of use in 20 years? If you are unsure, discuss old technology with a family member.



You will need:

- your imagination
- an empty box
- paper and pens
- items you have chosen
- colouring pens, pencils, or paints (optional)

Ideas for your time capsule:

- ◇ Phone or video call a grandparent to ask for a story about their life. Write down the story they tell you.
- ◇ Draw or paint a picture.
- ◇ Write a poem, song, or letter about what you expect in the future.
- ◇ Write down a collection of your favourite jokes, quotes, or lyrics.
- ◇ Print out some photos of you and your family.
- ◇ Cut out newspaper clippings of interesting articles.
- ◇ Cut out magazine images which show your favourite outfits. Stick them onto a fashion board.
- ◇ Write a list of personal goals for the future.
- ◇ Write down all your favourite things: food, colour, film, book, emoji, toy...

Get Creative Challenge

Make a time capsule!

Parents' FAQ Corner

Q. What questions can I ask during the activity?

Children can show they are learning by answering questions you ask. Here are some suggestions:

- What would happen to *[object]* over time? Why would this happen? E.g. would ice-cream keep well? How would a computer or games console age?
- What are your favourite objects now and would you add these to a time capsule?
- If we found a time capsule on our next walk, what would you love to find? Some old money? Someone's diary from long ago? Some old photographs? An ancient scroll? A secret alien spaceship?
- What do you imagine the future will be like?
- Where will you be in the future? Where would you like to go and what would you like to do?
- What goals or aims do you have for the future?
- You may also reflect on the past with your child. What do they have now which did not exist 20 years ago? What things did you value 20 years ago compared with now?

Q. Where can we get more ideas?

Firstly, read the 'Ideas for your time capsule' box on the previous page. If this does not spark new ideas for you and your child, this activity was also designed with the added bonus of encouraging family discussion and intergenerational interaction. Why not ask your child to telephone family members who do not live close by to ask what they would put in a time capsule and/or what they valued most when they were 20 years old?

Q. What have we learned?

This activity is an open-ended discussion-based activity, which broadly helps children to reflect and express themselves. It has been designed as a cross-curricular / interdisciplinary resource based on the 'real life' engineering of the bridge. By completing this activity, children will have:

- Practised self-expression: reflecting on what is important to them and to set goals and hopes for the future.
- Been creative, producing pieces of writing, art, or scrap-booking.
- Built stronger family relationships and learned more about their family members.
- Considered the concept of time.
- Considered how time affects materials differently: some may deteriorate (organic materials) and some may become defunct (technology).

Q. What can we do next?

- More learning and outreach activities can be found on our website: www.unionchainbridge.org.