



Eight pages of things to make and do

TEST OF PATIENCE

The Westinghouse Time Capsule in New York is due to be opened in the year 6939.

TOP TIP

To avoid water damage, hide your time capsule in a dry place, rather than burying it.

Make a time capsule

Preserve memories of life in 2021 for the future.

What you need

- A watertight and sealable container (we used an old biscuit tin)
- Objects that represent your life at the moment
- A newspaper
- A current photograph of you, with family or friends
- Long-lasting food, such as tinned goods
- Paper and pen
- A calendar or device with reminders

Instructions

- 1 Start by cleaning out your container. Make sure it is big enough for everything you want to put in it.
- 2 Collect your items. Include anything that you like a lot at the moment (but remember you won't see it for three years). You could add a newspaper to show what is happening in the world, or a copy of *The Week Junior Science+Nature*. If you want to include food items, avoid things that could go mouldy – tinned food is fine.
- 3 On a sheet of paper, draw a self-portrait. Write down some details about yourself and your life at the moment, for example your height and favourite hobbies, films and music.
- 4 Next, think of some predictions for the future. Write down one thing you think will happen each year for the next three years.
- 5 Place everything in your time capsule and seal it tightly. Put a note on the top with today's date and the date on which it can be opened. Then hide it where you will be able to find it later.
- 6 Finally, set a reminder on a phone or calendar. Note your time capsule's location, so that you can retrieve it and open it on the right day.



Draw a self-portrait.

How does it work?

Time capsules are a fun way to capture a moment in time, and look back to see how your life and interests have changed as you grow up. If left unopened for long enough, they can even become priceless evidence of life in times past for historians and archaeologists (experts who study man-made objects to understand history). One of the earliest examples of a time capsule dated back to 1797 and was found in Poland in 2020. It held books and papers that are now historically important.

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