Let’s Make a Time Capsule!

The Delaware Historical Society has been collecting and caring for pieces of Delaware history since 1864 – over 150 years! We collect all kinds of interesting things. From letters written by Caesar Rodney, to historic photographs, School Yearbooks, even toys and games from the past. The Delaware History Museum and Research Library has thousands of books, maps, photographs, paintings, documents, and objects of all shapes and sizes! Every object and document helps to tell the history and story of our state so we can remember what happened in the past.

The Delaware History Museum is a time capsule about Delaware!

Do you know what a time capsule is?

What is a Time Capsule?

• A time capsule is a way to store items from our time for people in the future to look at and study. Time capsules give people in the future a glimpse of what life was like in the past.

• Time capsules can be as simple as a box of items left forgotten on a top shelf of a closet or in the attic by your grandmother when she was a child or a sealed container full of carefully preserved objects buried in the ground or tucked away in an archive.

• Time capsules can be big or small, made of wood, cardboard, plastic, metal, or glass.

WHO CAN MAKE A TIME CAPSULE? Anyone!
Why Make a Time Capsule?

To let people in the future know what life was like in the past.

What objects, pictures, and documents would you include in a time capsule to tell YOUR story? Maybe pictures of you with your family and friends, favorite books or toys, a stuffed animal or other collectable, letters from family members?

What would you include to tell the story of your time safe-at-home?

Making a Time Capsule!

How do you Make a Time Capsule?

1. Decide how long you would like your time capsule to be sealed. Here are some examples:
   a. 1 year - You can start a time capsule now, open it up in a year and see how your life has changed.
   b. 10 years - You can start a time capsule when you are younger and then look back at it when you are an adult and remember all the good times you had!
   c. 20 years - You might want to open this time capsule with your children to show them what life was like when you were their age.
   d. 50 years - You might have a couple of generations with you when you open this one!
   e. 100 years - This one might be opened by a future historian interested in your life.
   f. 200 years - This one might be opened by a museum curator interested in finding out what it was like to live in Delaware in the year 2020.

2. Decide where you will store your time capsule and locate a container to store it in.
   a. Make sure your container is big enough and won’t get thrown away!
   b. For outdoor time capsules, make sure your container can be sealed and is waterproof! Write down where you buried it so you don’t forget!

3. Decide what you want in your time capsule. Remember, these objects should be things that tell a story about your life. You want someone who is opening it, years from now, to know what your life was like!

4. Gather your box or container and all of the objects you would like in your time capsule. Then organize them in the box/container and secure it in the place you chose to keep it.

5. Now all you have to do is wait!
Making a time capsule is an important and creative way of preserving history, but it’s also a great way to preserve and make memories! Make one on your own or ask friends and family to give you a hand.

Need a little extra help? Below are a few Time Capsule Journals that can guide you through the process of making your time capsule.

**Time Capsule Journals**

The following Time Capsule Activities were not created by the Delaware Historical Society. We do not own the rights to these activities, however, they are posted with permission from the creator/owner.

