

How to make a time capsule that tells the story of Covid-19

The 2020 Covid-19 pandemic will go down in the history books, but a time capsule will teach future generations all about what lockdown was really like.

COVID 19 time capsules are an easy project to get involved with, plus they're totally unique to every person.

What are Covid-19 time capsules?

Time capsules are containers of some kind which hold a selection of objects, picked because they have a special meaning in the time that we're living in. For example, time capsules have been found from as early as 1874 in the UK with photographs and letters, describing daily events happening that year.

Often, time capsules are buried underground, beneath floorboards or stone slabs. For example, in 2015 one was buried under the Millennium Dome in London to be opened in 2050.

With the coronavirus pandemic, we are all living through an important moment in history. Many people want to help future generations learn about this time using time capsules, full of things that show what life under lockdown was like. So, how do you make your own Covid-19 time capsule?

How to create a COVID-19 time capsule

While everyone will make theirs differently depending on what they think is important, these are some of the basics that you should do to create your time capsule. Adding more will make it more fascinating when it's opened!

Choose your box

If you're burying your time capsule, it's important to use a sturdy container that won't rot or fall apart over time. Especially if you're thinking of burying it in the garden. It also needs to be something that is easily recognisable as valuable by whoever finds it in the future. A box made out of one of these materials will be mostly waterproof and sturdy enough to maintain its shape over time. If you're just going to hide yours in your house, it can be any material. An old shoe box would be fine.

Collect your objects

These need to be the best objects to describe the time we're living through at the moment. Your Covid-19 time capsule should include things like the ones below.

Photographs

Photos are a great way to show future generations what your life was like.

For a time capsule to remember COVID-19, you might want to include photos of what kind of things you did at home. This might be pictures of you doing the Joe Wicks workout, baking or anything arty. It could be pictures of you video chatting with friends and family! You could also include print outs of empty streets and parks that have been doing the rounds on social media.

A newspaper

Newspapers are perfect to include in a time capsule. Although they might fade over time, newspapers show the date, what exactly was happening and how people were thinking at the time.

Because you're creating a time capsule in the time of COVID-19, the headlines are likely to be about something negative. So to balance it out, include some positive news stories that you've seen so that whoever finds your time capsule will know that people were still looking at the positive side of things. You can also include cuttings and pages from magazines and newspapers you have relating to lockdown – or some print outs of articles like this one!

Letters and postcards

Pop in there any letters, birthday cards and postcards sent between friends and family – and you could also include the letter from Prime Minister Boris Johnson sent to each household.

A diary

Even if you only do it for a couple of weeks while we're in lockdown, or even a *day*, a diary will be an invaluable part of your time capsule. It's more personal than a newspaper and you will be able to describe what's going on in the world from your own perspective. It will be extremely interesting to hear your own thoughts and feelings, say 10 years on!

If you're thinking about what to write, try a list of positives and negatives about the current situation. Lockdown is obviously tough and can be boring, frustrating and scary, but spending more time together as a family could be a positive. Or, a simple explanation of what you do in a typical day and how you felt would be great!

Interviews with people in your house

This will be a great way to show future generations how everyone felt about having to stay inside the house, how parents got on with homeschooling and what people were interested in.

Other objects

It could be a pack of cards to show how households were connecting by playing games and going back to basics, a set of quiz questions you wrote for a virtual quiz or even a part of your fancy dress for a Joe Wicks fancy dress work out! This part is great because it's totally unique to you and your household. Get creative!

Bury your time capsule

Once you have a suitable container for your objects and have filled it, you can bury your time capsule. Make sure you have whoever's permission the garden belongs to! But remember, this part is optional. You could equally "bury" it in the loft or in a cupboard at home instead!

Credit to <https://www.goodtoknow.co.uk/family/things-to-do/covid-19-time-capsule-538121>!