

Make a Time Capsule

An activity of "Ancient city is Egypt's biggest discovery..."

Read "Ancient city is Egypt's biggest discovery since King Tut's tomb" (page 1, *What's Up* April 2021). Turn to the newspaper's centrefold (page 12–13) and you will find more stories about ancient treasures, but they were found in shipwrecks at the bottom of oceans. Many of these things are now precious because they are from long ago. In those days, people may have had no idea their belongings would become historical artefacts.

Look around you at the things you use daily. One day, these items may be seen as valuable artefacts of this decade. Some of the ordinary items at home may not even exist anymore by the time you are an adult. At that time, wouldn't it be fun to open a time capsule of what you had in 2021? That is why you should make one right away.

1 Make your time capsule — Use a container the size of a shoe box. An empty biscuit tin with a tight lid is ideal as it is usually airtight, waterproof, and will not break down easily. Otherwise, a shoe box, an empty shuttlecock or tennis-ball canister, a plastic food container or anything else like that would work.

Decorate your time capsule. Label it with your name, address, and date. Write on it in big, bold letters:

"PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL – TO BE OPENED ONLY IN 2031".

2 Select, label, and pack in your items — Decide what you want to put into your time capsule. They must be things that you will not need any time now: so, do not include your original school report cards or your birth certificate. Select small items that will last many years without getting rotten or spoilt. Write a brief note about each item and why you feel it deserves to be included.

Examples: a favourite T-shirt that is too small now, a packet of tissue paper, coins, used movie tickets, a spare school badge, birthday and festival cards, hongbao packets, photos, a printout of your favourite website's home page, a BFF wristlet, trinkets, an old toothbrush, a copy of *What's Up*, a couple of different masks you used during the pandemic, and so on.

3 Seal and store your capsule — If you are not sure whether your container is airtight and waterproof, put your items into zip-lock bags and close the bags carefully. Then, use duct tape to seal off your time capsule. Keep it in a very safe place until you are ready to open it in 2030. At that time, you may be delighted to find that your little childhood mementos have become as valuable to you as the ancient treasures you read about in *What's Up*.

4 In the year 2031, open your time capsule! — Tell us all about how you feel as an adult looking through your childhood mementos. Email letters@whatsup.sg!

