

Build Your Own LGBTIQ+ Time Capsule!



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How to use this guide:

The activities have been designed to be completed together or as stand-alone activities. If you are short of time you could pick an activity that suits the interests of the group or fits the amount of time that you have.

Activities can be adapted to suit your group; please use the suggested time as a guide

What is a Time Capsule?!

A time capsule is a great way to leave evidence of your own history for the future.

Many people in the past have left time capsules; this has given us an idea of what life was like and can help us compare how life is now against how life was for people in the past.

What is a Queer Time Capsule?!



A queer history time capsule is a container storing a selection of objects chosen to represent queer lives today, which gets saved for discovery in the future.

West Yorkshire Queer Stories' time capsule resource is a legacy project encouraging LGBTIQ+ youth groups to create a time capsule, and open and add to it each year as an LGBTIQ+ History Month activity.

You can decide what is significant and what you would like to put in your time capsule. You could include badges, wristbands, posters and leaflets from events you have been to, poems and stories containing LGBTIQ+ themes, maybe even photos of events you have been to. You can visit the West Yorkshire Queer Stories online archive at WYQS.co.uk



Tips for Making Your Own Time Capsule



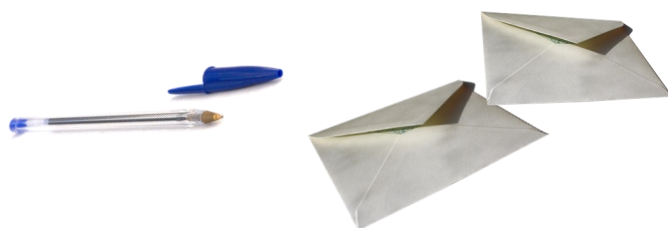
Choose your container

Your container needs to be strong and big enough for the objects you want to store. Think about where you will keep the time capsule. Will it need to be strong and sturdy? Will you need a plastic box or would cardboard be better? Do you need to use a box? You could use an old biscuit tin or even a large envelope.

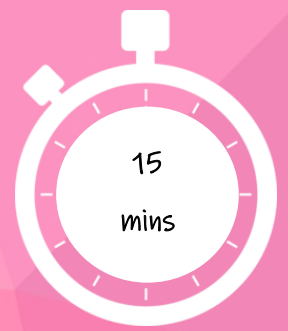
If you decide to use a cardboard box you could include decorating the box as part of the task, so that group members can get creative around how the capsule itself reflects queer history.

Some people may prefer to take part in this way rather than actually contributing an item.

You could write a letter to go in or on top of the box, including the date, details of who you are and any message you want to leave. All of that information will be useful to a future historian learning about you.



Activity 1



Discussion - Think about what you could include in your time capsule.

- What has happened in the LGBTIQ+ world that you think should be remembered?
- What do you think people in the future might want to know about?
- You could have a think about LGBTIQ+ celebrities or public figures, perhaps sportspeople or musicians?
- Maybe consider any world events that have had an impact on LGBTIQ+ people. Can you identify any? How have these made you feel?

Have you been to any events that have been significant for the LGBTIQ+ community?

These could include talks, celebrations, Pride events or protests. You could write about these or include leaflets, flyers, posters or photos from events.

Items to include could be photographs, crafts, trinkets, stories and more.



Activity 2



Take Photos of Your Group

Photos are a good way of capturing what is happening and showing others in the future exactly what was going on, you could consider:

- A photo of your group together
- Some activities that you have taken part in
- Photos of different parts of your group; if not everyone wants to be identified. This could be pictures of your shoes, your hands, any wristbands or jewellery you wear
- Print these out and include details of what is happening in the photo, including the date and place it was taken.



Members of the youth club,
Feb 2020



Activity 3



Create a Zine

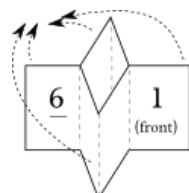
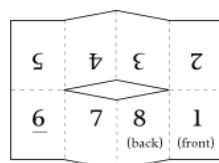
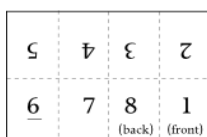
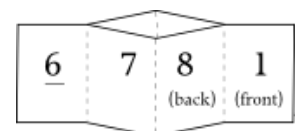
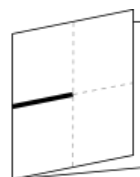
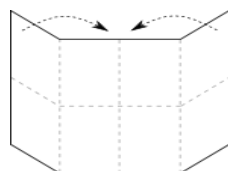
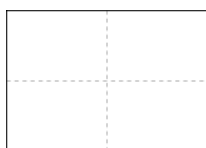
Zines are easy to make and are a great way of displaying your ideas. You should think about the design of your zine, including what ideas you will put in and what colours you will use.

You might want to include:

- What being LGBTIQ+ means to you
- How being LGBTIQ+ makes you feel
- Something significant related to being LGBTIQ+ that has happened to you this year
- A flag that represents the LGBTIQ+ group that you belong to.



How to make a Zine:



Activity 4



Create an "About Me" Fact-Sheet

Fact-Sheets are a great way of helping people learn about you. You could use this sheet as a starting activity. This activity could be completed on its own or you could use it to help you to create other things for your time capsule, such as letters or to give you ideas for other things to put in your time capsule.

You might want to include:

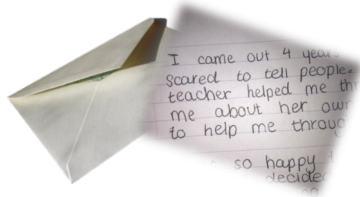
- What being LGBTIQ means to you
- How being LGBTIQ makes you feel
- The best thing about being LGBTIQ
- Something significant related to being LGBTIQ+ that has happened to you this year
- Some artwork



Activity 5



Write a Short Story, Letter or Poem

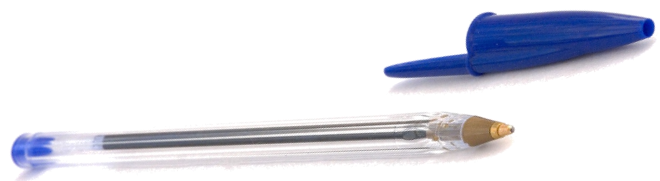


Write a short story or poem about what it is like to be a young LGBTIQ+ person today.

This could be based on your own experiences or a made-up character.

Try to give a future reader an idea of how it feels, what it is like and any challenges or things that make you smile.

You could try to write a letter to your younger self giving advice, or if you're feeling extra creative try to write a letter to your older self, reminding yourself of what matters now and what to hold onto for the future.



Activity 6



Important Events

Imagine you are arranging an awards ceremony.



Think back over the last year or so and imagine what awards you would give for the most significant LGBTIQ+ events.

Ideas could include:



- Most influential LGBTIQ+ celebrity
- Best song by an LGBTIQ+ musician
- Sporting successes by LGBTIQ+ athletes / sportspeople
- Most significant LGBTIQ+ event worldwide
- Best LGBTIQ+ event
- LGBTIQ+ lifetime achievement award
- Best LGBTIQ+ focussed organisation

There could be many categories to choose from; why not try to create some of your own?

Final Tips & Checklist



- ☐ Is your container strong enough?
- ☐ Is your container the right size?
- ☐ Have you decided where to hide your container?
- ☐ Will you seal your box? If so, how will you seal it?
- ☐ Will you include a letter on the box explaining what it is?
- ☐ Does your box have a date when it should be opened after?
- ☐ Have you labelled any photos or items that might need explaining?

Thank You For Taking Part

