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HANDS ON HISTORY

Hi, I'm Eric, and I think history rocks!
You can watch my time travelling adventures on the Hands on History website.

This is Aggy and Mona – get hunting for history with us!

Build a time capsule

Whether you have a minute to spare or a whole day, you can get hands on with history in your own home.

This pack includes instructions for making a time capsule and hiding it for future historians, alongside two quick and simple activities to help you get hunting for history at home.

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From building an ancient stone circle, to creating an archaeological excavation or going on a Norman walk, there are loads of fun, family-friendly activities to try out on the website.

bbc.co.uk/handsonhistory



Activity 1



HISTORY HUNTING

Great for: the whole family together; or adults can set the challenge and enjoy hearing what the kids have discovered. (You might want to state some 'no-go' areas!)

You have a 10-minute time limit – Get hunting for history!

You are looking for...

- The oldest object
- The newest object
- The most interesting object

When the time is up, compare what you have discovered

- Who has found the oldest and newest objects?
- How do you know how old something is? Think about the colour, the texture, the decoration, the stories you know about the object.
- If you aren't sure, how could you find out more? You could visit a local library, archive or research your object online.
- Discuss the 'interesting' objects you've found – what makes them interesting to you?

You've done some hands-on historical research.



Want to keep hunting? Look out for:

- pictorial evidence (photos and drawings)
- written evidence (books, newspapers and letters)

Hunt for them in your home and share the stories you find.



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Activity 2



WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT?!

Great for: children who love storytelling and drama

Take one of the objects you have found and imagine that you are someone from 1,000 years in the future who has just dug it up.

What would you think it is?

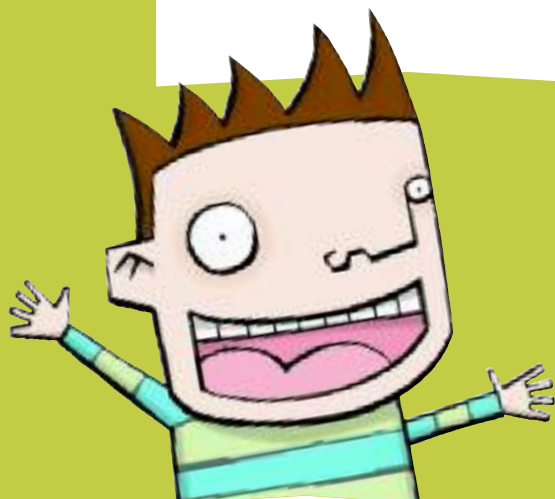
- Remember, the ideas might be wildly wrong (in fact it's more fun if they are!)
- Pick one of the objects you have found and pass it around the group – each person has to describe the object as something that it isn't. For example someone from the future might think that a digital watch is a teleporter or that a pen is a mini-space rocket..!

Think about these questions:

- What do you think it is?
- How do you think it was used? – And why?
- Who do you think would have used it?



You've thought about how historians and archaeologists interpret their discoveries.



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Activity 3



BUILD A FAMILY TIME CAPSULE



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

- Choose your container. It needs to be strong, watertight and big enough for the objects you want to bury. Remember, many containers these days are biodegradable, which is great – unless you want to bury a time capsule!
- Pick 5-10 items to represent everyone in your family – include favourite hobbies, holidays, pets, films and more. Think about what you found in the History Hunt – objects, pictures and written evidence.
- Write a letter to go in the box, include 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.
- Bury your time capsule, ready to be discovered.

Nowhere to bury your capsule? Hide it in your house or flat instead (under a floorboard, in a cupboard or in the attic).

OR

Make a time-velope

- This is like writing a letter to the future!
- Take a large, ordinary envelope.
- Put your evidence inside it, including your message. Pictorial (photos and drawings) and written (articles and letters) work best for a time-velope.
- Seal the envelope securely – you might even add a wax seal or fancy stickers.
- Write 'Not to be opened until...' and add a date in the future.
- Hide it somewhere inside your home, ready to be found.



You've preserved historical evidence for the future.



Be a historian of your own past!

Set a date for one, two or even five years in the future to open your time capsule or time-velope together. You'll find a lot will change in a short space of time. You can even add more and hide it again.

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