

## **\*Lesson 5 – Make a Time Capsule**

**Learn what artifacts are, and why labels or definitions of their use or importance are helpful for understanding their place in history. Make a Time Capsule with artifacts from the present that will let people, in the future, know what you school, or your home, was like.**

Start with Whole Class and Move to Partners, or Do at Home with Parents

### Objectives

Identify artifacts that you could include to show what your school, or home, is like now  
Write labels for the artifacts you choose - these can be descriptions, “How To” explanations, or definitions of the artifacts

### Materials

Pencils or pens

3 X 5 cards, or paper of the same size, to make labels for each artifact

Receptacle for the Time Capsule (this can be an Army surplus metal container, a notebook, a zip-lock bag, even a cd—just as long as it will represent the present to people in the future)

Artifacts that you gather to represent your school or your home today

-Explain what an “Artifact” is. Give examples of Artifacts in the present. In the classroom they might be markers, a computer print-out, a book, a folder, a key, a photograph or a drawing. At home it might be a calendar, a toy, a piece of homework, a family photo, diagram of the house, a description of your yard and what you do there...there are many choices. You can use magazine pictures of things like cell phones, TVs, cars, or video games.

-If you can, come to the museum to see a display of artifacts from school in the past.

-Use the handout that shows some artifacts that students used to use in school in the early days of our [community](#), Talent.

-This is exciting!! In 2010, the 100-year anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Talent, the government of the City of Talent buried a Time Capsule beneath the clock at the Train Depot. The capsule was put together by Jan Wright, Historian for the present-day Talent Historical Society and author of two history books about our community. The Time Capsule mostly contained information about

businesses in Talent, but it also has a copy of one of Jan Wright’s books, *Images of America: Talent*. The capsule will be dug up and opened in in the year 2035.



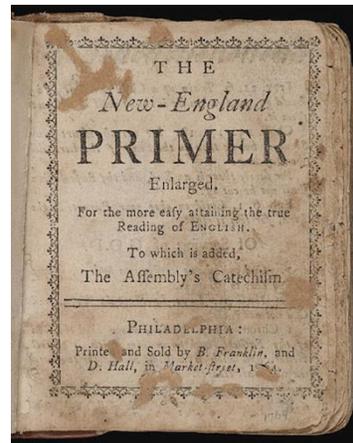
## Artifacts that Students Used in Schools in the Past



Today students write and draw with pens, pencils, markers and crayons...in the past they used an ink well and a “dip” pen. They had to dip the pen in the ink, then write on their paper. Everything had to be copied by hand,

there were no Xerox copy machines.

These are the kind of books that students used for learning to read. It was called a “Primer”. This is a Primer written by Benjamin Franklin called the New-England Primer. Here is a page from the Primer showing illustrations and text.



Children played with toys like these at recess. Often children's toys were made out of wood. What are they made out of today? Here is a wooden Yo-yo, a Vintage Ball and Tinker Toys, which were kind of like Legos, but made from wood.





ACTIVITY!  
Time Capsule

-Explain that all artifacts collected by the students need to have a label and an explanation. 3 X 5 or 5 X 7 cards are great for labels and explanations.

- If the class is doing the Time Capsule as a whole, you can assign two or three items to each student. If the students are doing this at home, they will want many more items and the parents may be able to help with writing some of the labels and explanations. Let students choose things they are very interested in to add to the Time Capsule.

-Choose a fun receptacle. Here is a photo of a special Time Capsule made by my students. We used acetate sheet covers to encase some things, also, pencil zippered cases, zip lock bags, pictures of things, and put them all in this giant notebook with a special leather cover, along with their labels and explanations. You might choose a suitcase, a box, a water-tight tin, a trunk, or whatever creative idea you come up with. You may even want to make an electronic Time Capsule, a PowerPoint or slideshow.



For 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: You can also assign students to write a “How To” piece explaining how to do something modern, like make a grilled cheese sandwich or use a cell phone.

Notes - Artifacts can include photos or documents. You do not have to “bury” a Time Capsule. It can just be kept in a safe place.