

Looking Back

Concept:

Students learn best if they are given the chance to restate what they have learned to others in their own words. Moreover, since making a time capsule is a retrospective act, a moment of reflection on the past nine lessons is appropriate.

Activity # 1: Evaluating What Students Learned

1. Have students write short passages in response to the following questions or have a think-aloud discussion in which students provide answers to the following questions.

- What is a time capsule?
- Why do people create time capsules?
- What can people learn from them?
- What do you wish people in the past had put into a time capsule?
- What are some of the problems or flaws with time capsules?
- What did you like best about making a time capsule?
- What did you like least?

Activity # 2: What Will People in the Future Think?

1. Have a discussion in which the students step back and try to look with fresh eyes at their time capsule as a whole.

- What do you think people one hundred years from now will remark on when they pry open our classroom time capsule?
- What objects will they not recognize?
- What items will seem “quaint” and dated to them?
- Which items will they see as especially insightful and far-seeing selections?
- What messages do they think that people in the future will learn from their time capsule?
- What messages will strike a historian one hundred years from now?