



Christa McAuliffe

Time Capsule for Future Classrooms

TEACHER IN SPACE

Christa was a high school social studies teacher selected as the first civilian and teacher to fly into space. Her mission was to make space relatable to students and share the journey with classrooms across the country.

OBJECTIVE

Design a time capsule that could survive either on Earth or in space to teach students 100 years in the future.

MATERIALS

- Shoeboxes or sealable containers
- Aluminum foil, Ziploc bags, other “protection” materials
- Index cards or digital recording tools
- Art supplies
- Student worksheet (design plan, content log, reflection questions)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Learn about Christa McAuliffe and her mission as a teacher.
2. Research time capsules and space exposure.
3. Brainstorm what messages, lessons, or STEM tools would be valuable in the future.
4. Design and pack your capsule.
5. Write or record an explanation of your choices.

EXTENSION

Create a digital time capsule (video, Google Drive folder, or QR-coded message) to be opened on a set future date.



STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Introduction:** Show a short video or presentation on Christa McAuliffe and her role as the first teacher in space.
- 2. Discuss Time Capsules:** What is a time capsule? Why do people create them? What challenges would exist if one were sent to space?
- 3. Brainstorm:** Ask students to brainstorm what STEM-related items or messages future students might find important. Prompt ideas like renewable energy sources, climate data, coding languages, or inspirational messages.
- 4. Design:** Provide students with containers or let them plan digital versions (e.g., Google Drive folders, QR code messages).
- 5. Create:** Students organize and place their items, messages, or symbolic objects into the capsule.
- 6. Explain:** Each student or group completes a “Time Capsule Log” worksheet explaining each choice and its significance.
- 7. Present:** Groups share their capsule and reasoning with the class.
- 8. Optional Extension:** Choose a class storage location or future digital release date (e.g., a reminder on a classroom calendar).





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Time Capsule Student Worksheet

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Christa was a high school social studies teacher selected as the first civilian and teacher to fly into space. Her mission was to make space relatable to students and share the journey with classrooms across the country.

What do you think future students should know about STEM and your world today?

List the items you're including and why they matter:

1.

2.

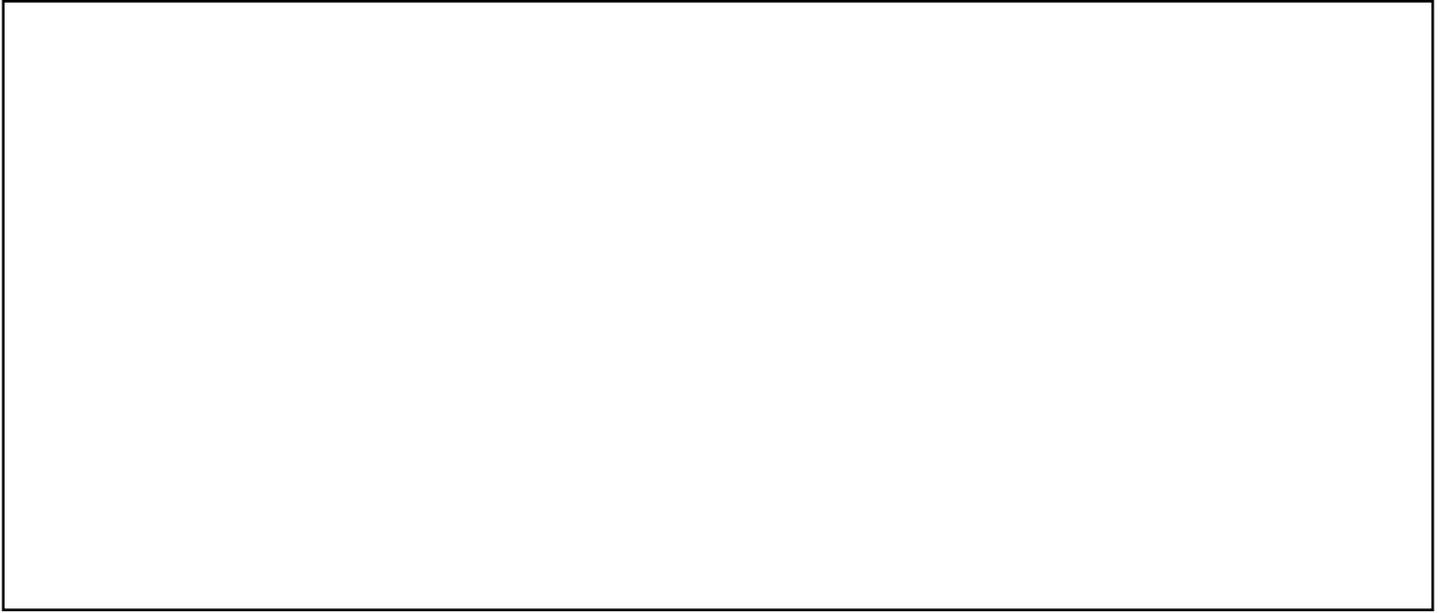
3.

4.

5.

Design a Label or Logo for Your Time Capsule:

[Draw below or attach]



How would your capsule survive 100 years? What materials help it last?

Where should it be stored and why? (Earth or Space?)
