

The History Lesson  
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While I was walking around my yard with my metal detector one day, it suddenly started going crazy. As soon as I started digging, I discovered a time capsule. I saw an engraved plaque on it that said, "Dedicated March, 2009" "Woa!" I said. "2009! That was 60 years ago! What could they have had that we might care about?" I wondered what was in there.

Inside, I witnessed state-of-the-art technology... for 2009. "I wonder what this can do?" I thought, picking up the first small box. It turned out to be a GPS, what they used to call a Global Positioning System. "Hey, this can mark your location," I said. "No more paper maps... wow! Not bad for technology from 60 years ago, especially since we now have GPS built into our brains." I checked the GPS in my head and it said the same thing as the old 2009 GPS... very cool! Next I picked up the second metallic device. I turned it on and waited to see what it would do. It was a cell phone, which we studied in school as the first kind of phone you could use almost anywhere. But we now had phones programmed into our heads, too, so it didn't seem so necessary. Then the old phone started ringing. "Woa!" It said I had one new voice message. It was a voice from 2009 saying, "Hello future! This is

Henry, hope you enjoy these things!" I closed the cell phone. "That's one awesome old dude!" I replied. "'Henry' must have been pretty cool." Last, but not least, I found a third small gadget. Turns out that it played music. "So you stuff these in your ears and push a button and it plays music," I said to myself. "Cool!" I looked up the same songs on the digital music player implanted in my own head, and soon I was listening to old songs from the 1980s that nobody liked anymore. But I liked them, so I turned up the time-capsule MP3 player and started jamming-out. I had only heard of i-pods in my history books... it was cool to see a real one for myself.

I couldn't help but think about all the things I saw in the time capsule at the day's end. It seemed that people in 2009 always wanted to be in-touch with their environment. Their GPS always kept them knowing where they were. Their cell-phones kept them in-touch with their friends and families. And their MP3 players kept them up on their favorite cultural things, like music and TV and videos. Wow! I'd always wondered how hard it was to keep in-touch with these things before digital chips were put directly into our heads.

That night, I figured that I actually learned more about the past that day than I do in my history class in school. Just because a kid named Henry buried a time capsule in my yard!