

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL  
BROUGHT TO YOU BY L&A COUNTY MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

# MUSEUM KIDS

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## @ HOME

### FEATURED THIS MONTH:

Covid-19 Time Capsule - Week 1

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Letter Boxing - Week 2

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Museum Confidential - Week 3

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Our Town- Week 4

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April programs are also  
available online at  
[www.CountyMuseum.ca](http://www.CountyMuseum.ca)



## LETTER BOXING - DAY 1

### What is Letter Boxing?

Do you like to go on adventures? How about solving riddles or clues? Do you like finding treasure? Yes, well Letter Boxing will be something so fun for you! For those of you who are new to Letter Boxing, it is similar to the popular activity of geocaching. L&A County has one of the largest Geocaching events held every summer at our Museum so now is the time to get practice so you can join in the fun! The basic idea: Write clues that will lead someone to your letterbox. Go on an adventure and find the letterbox, collect the image that you find inside and onto the next!

Today's activity is to collect all of the materials that we will need for this week's activity.

- notebook and pencil
- boxes that you can hide (make as many as you want!)
- a stamp or paper and markers to make your own marking that people will collect.

Although Letterboxing is typically done with lots of people involved placing their personal stamps in boxes all over the world, we are going to start by creating our scavenger hunt in the safety of our home or yard.

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## LETTER BOXING - DAY 2

### Letter Boxing Secret Lingo

Just like all secret adventure specialists there is some fun words that will help you speak in code.

1. Trail Name: Create a name that is not your personal name, that you will use to share on your letterboxes.
2. SPOR: "Suspicious Pile of Rocks" which means a rock pile that doesn't look natural, which help to mark the position of your letterbox.
3. PFX count: record of boxes that you have planted, found or exchanged. Ask your parents if you can use the site Atlas Quest if you decide to take this on as a hobby.

### Today's Activity

#### Create a fun Trail Name

Look around your house or yard to find inconspicuous (not easy to find) hiding places. Keep notes to help you when writing clues.

Then it's time to create your own stamp or marking that someone will collect when they find your letter boxes. Remember to make your stamp or picture small enough to fit in your box.



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## LETTER BOXING - DAY 3

### The History of Letter Boxing

in 1854, a guide name James Perrott planted the first letter box with a bottle in Dartmoor, which is in the west of England. In the bottle he placed a card with his contact information and asked others to leave their own contact. The bottle was replaced with a small tin box in 1888, and visitors started leaving self-addressed postcards. The next visitor that visited the box would take the post card, replace it with their own, and send the post card to the previous visitor.

A log book was added in 1905 so visitors could record their attendance, and in 1907 it was first suggested that a stamp was used.

### Today's activity

We are going to write our clues today!  
Since we are working around our house and yard, the clues and relations related to that space rather than roads.

For example:  
If you're looking for a clue, start in a place where you find your shoe.  
Write enough clues for the number of letter boxes you plan on hiding.

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## LETTER BOXING - DAY 4

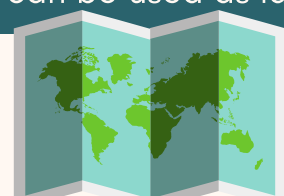
**These rules were made by the Letterboxing association to make sure participants are safe, and respect nature.**

1. Boxes should not be sited in any kind of antiquity, in or near stonerows, circles, cists, cairns, buildings, walls, ruins, peatcutters' or tinnies' huts, etc.
2. Boxes should not be sited in any potentially dangerous situations where injuries could be caused.
3. Boxes should not be sited as a fixture. Cement or any other building material is not to be used.

Today's activity:

It is time to hide your clues. When you are hiding them, use your notes from Day 2 to remember the spots you chose.

Then when you are finished hiding your clues, it's time to create a map. Start with a big square, your hallways will be your roads and your furniture can be used as landmarks.





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## LETTER BOXING - DAY 5

This is a fantastic activity to get you exploring, and finding treasure.

If this is something that you would like to learn more about you can start by checking out the website <https://www.letterboxing.org>. You can search our area to see the letter boxes that are already out there, and you can submit the information for your own! You will need your Trail Name you created, directions and clues.

Don't forget there is a great geocaching event hosted in L&A County which is a similar fun activity!

<https://lennox-addington.on.ca/explore/discover-la-county-mega-geocaching-event>

Today's activity: It's discovery day! Have your parents or siblings follow your clues and maps to find your letterboxes. Use your notebooks to leave notes in each box.

Remember, this can be done out in our community too! Share with your friends and create your own letter boxing community. We love doing rock hunts and adventures, this can be a fun interactive way for kids to connect once social distancing regulations end.

We'd love to see and hear about your adventure.  
Share on Facebook @CountyMuseum