

Alma creates a lot of new memories with her family when she visits Puerto Rico—like finding shells on the beach, visiting the El Yunque National Rainforest, eating alcapurrias and pasteles, and learning a new poem. One way to remember fun summer days with your family is by creating a souvenir box. The box can be a place to collect items that spark memories. You can fill the box with notes, drawings, small trinkets, and mementos—anything from a special time you had with your family or friends. As you make more memories throughout the summer, you can add more items to the box.



Instructions



1 Work together to decorate the box. You can cover it with paper, fabric scraps, stickers, or simply paint or color the box.



2 Talk about the special times you have shared with family and friends. Each person can write or draw about a fun summer memory they'd like to add to the box. Younger children may need help writing a message about the special time. You can add photographs or other mementos to the box, too!



3 Keep your box in a special place and continue to add to it throughout the summer. You can open the box anytime and share stories and memories about the things inside.

Materials

- A shoebox or cardboard box with a lid
- Paper (white or colored)
- Crayons, markers, or paint
- Stickers or other decorations
- Glue or tape
- Pair of scissors (with adult supervision)
- Fabric scraps (optional)

Explore Further

Some memories may be about the traditions and culture of a new place. When Alma and her family visit Puerto Rico, Papi explains that his hometown of Loíza is known as “The Capital of Tradition...La Capital de la Tradición.” Alma is excited to learn about the music, food, and history of Loíza.

Your family can explore the history and traditions of a place you visit, whether that's a new country, state, or neighborhood. What foods, music, or traditions did you learn about?