Make a Treasure Chest

Make your own treasure box, inspired by this Renaissance Cassone. A cassone is a large Italian chest, made in the 15th century to store valuables. Cassone were often made for a wedding, one for the bride and one for the groom. The paintings on the sides are visual storybooks, and the lid was painted with patterns. The story on the sides of this chest show scenes from Hercules, a story which was important to the family.

What kinds of stories or images are important to you? Use your favorite colors, materials and patterns to make your box special enough to keep your favorite items.

**Step 1:** Treasure hunt! Take your time looking around your home for art making materials. You can use markers, glitter, wrapping paper, ribbon, sequins aluminum foil, magazine cutouts, craft paper, paint or any other art making materials you can find. Try to find something to color with, something to cut into shapes and add with glue. All you really need is a shoe box, paper to wrap it, scissors, glue, coloring utensils and collage items to glue down.

**Step 2:** Wrap your shoe box so no labels are showing.

**Step 3:** Use the art making materials you find to color the top of your cassone. Keep in mind that the sides may be harder to draw or paint on, so you may want to save your collage materials to decorate the sides. Will your box tell a story? Will it show your name? Will it be a fun doodle? There’s no wrong way to decorate your box.

**Step 4:** Use the sides of your box to collage your items, you can make a jewel like pattern using repeating geometric shapes like we did here. You can decorate the inside of your box if you’d like an extra challenge. Make sure to let your box dry completely before using it.

**Step 5:** Store your treasures! You can use this as a memory box or a place to keep your favorite toys.