

PASSIVE: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

1 Active vs Passive. Underline the correct alternative.

I never used to like history lessons at school. The teacher never 1 *was brought / brought* history to life and it was really boring. We 2 *were always told / always told* to just read out long passages from textbooks to the class. You never 3 *were known / knew* when it was going to be your turn and then, suddenly, you 4 *were chosen / chose* by the teacher to read the next paragraph. Since then, I 5 *'ve been discovered / 've discovered* that history is actually really interesting. I 6 *'ve been shown / 've shown* some really interesting documentaries over the years by friends, which have really got me interested. At the moment I 7 *'m being done / 'm doing* a course on twentieth century history, and we 8 *'ve been given / 've given* various topics to research and present to the class. It's absolutely fascinating, and next week I 9 *'ll be given / 'll give* the opportunity to present what I found out. I hope children 10 *are taught / teach* history in a similar way at school these days.

Hadrian's Wall

2 Fill the gaps with the correct tenses (active or passive voice).

In the year 122 AD, the Roman Emperor Hadrian 1 _____ (visit) his provinces in Britain. On his visit, the Roman soldiers told him that Pictish tribes from Britain's north 2 _____ (attack) them. So Hadrian 3 _____ (give) the order to build a protective wall across one of the narrowest parts of the country. After 6 years of hard work, the Wall 4 _____ (finish) in 128. It 5 _____ (be) 117 kilometres long and about 4 metres high. The Wall 6 _____ (guard) by 15,000 Roman soldiers. Every 8 kilometres there was a large fort in which up to 1,000 soldiers 7 _____ (find) shelter. The soldiers watched over the frontier to the north and checked the people who 8 _____ (want) to enter or leave Roman Britain. In order to pass through the Wall, people had to go to one of the small forts that 9 _____ (serve) as gateways. Those forts were called milecastles because the distance from one fort to another 10 _____ (be) one Roman mile (about 1,500 metres). Between the milecastles there were two turrets from which the soldiers 11 _____ (guard) the Wall. If the Wall was attacked by enemies, the soldiers at the turrets ran to the nearest milecastle for help or lit a fire that 12 _____ (see) by the soldiers in the milecastle. In 383 Hadrian's Wall 13 _____ (abandon). Today Hadrian's Wall 14 _____ (be) the most popular tourist attraction in northern England. In 1987, it 15 _____ (become) a UNESCO World Heritage Site.