Verb *be*: past simple affirmative and negative

1 Choose the correct words.

1 The first modern Olympic Games **was** / **were** in Athens, Greece.
2 Elizabeth Blackwell **was** / **were** the first woman to become a doctor.
3 The first men to walk on the moon **wasn't** / **weren't** Russian.
4 Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay **was** / **were** the first men to climb Mount Everest.
5 Roald Amundsen **was** / **were** the first person to reach the South Pole in Antarctica.
6 Tim Peake **weren't** / **wasn't** the first British astronaut to go into space.

Verb *be*: past simple questions and answers

2 Match the questions 1–9 to the answers a–i.

1 Was the weather good on holiday? d
2 What was your birthday party like? ___
3 Were your friends at the rugby match? ___
4 Was there a school trip last month? ___
5 When were you born? ___
6 Was Aylén at school yesterday? ___
7 Were you at football practice yesterday? ___
8 Were there a lot of people at the concert? ___
9 Where was Lucas this afternoon? ___

a No, they weren't.
b He was at home.
c No, I wasn't.
d ~~Yes, it was.~~
e No, there wasn't.
f It was fantastic.
g In 2002.
h Yes, there were.
i Yes, she was.

there was / there were

3 Reorder the words to make sentences and questions.

1 my / message / on / there / a / phone / wasn't
There wasn't a message on my phone.
2 the / a / classroom / there / whiteboard / was / in
3 town / in / were / today / many / there / people / ?
4 school / weren't / trip / there / on / students / the / many
5 first / a / your / was / at / school / there / computer / ?
6 the / there / hotel / was / a / pool / swimming / at

Put it together

4 Tick (✓) the sentences that are true for you.

1 I was born in Argentina. ☐
2 There was a good film on TV last night. ☐
3 It was fun at school yesterday. ☐
4 There were a lot of tourists in town at the weekend. ☐
5 My friends and I were noisy in class this morning. ☐
6 There was a school trip to Brazil last year. ☐