UNIT 3 · GRAMMAR FOCUS 1

# What happened to it?

The soldiers were made… · It was found…

## Notice: The object comes first

Historians often write about an object, not the people who made it. Often, we do not know their names.

| THE PERSON COMES FIRST | THE OBJECT COMES FIRST |
|---|---|
| Workers **made** the clay soldiers. | The clay soldiers **were made** for the emperor. |
| Farmers **found** the first soldier in 1974. | The first soldier **was found** in 1974. |
| *person + verb + object* | *object + was / were + past participle* |

**WAS OR WERE?**

one thing → **was** It was buried.
more than one → **were** They were buried.

**PAST PARTICIPLE**

make → **made**
find → **found**
bury → **buried**
paint → **painted**
build → **built**

*Key idea: use was / were + past participle when the object is more important than the person.*

## Practice: Complete the sentences

Read the timeline from Lesson 3. Then write was or were + the past participle of the verb in brackets.

**The Terracotta Army**

| When? | before 210 BCE | 210 BCE | 1974 | 1979 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **What happened?** | soldiers made of clay | emperor buried at Mount Li | first soldier found | museum opened |

1 About 8,000 clay soldiers _____ (make) before 210 BCE.

2 The First Emperor _____ (bury) at Mount Li in 210 BCE.

3 The soldiers _____ (paint) in bright colours, but most of the paint has gone.

4 The first soldier _____ (find) by farmers in 1974.

5 The museum _____ (open) in 1979.

**Fix it** Each sentence has one mistake. Write it again correctly.

**6** "The clay soldiers was buried near the tomb."

**7** "The first soldier was find by farmers."

## Your turn: The Pompeii casts

Look at the fact box from Lesson 2. Write three sentences with was or were + past participle.



A cast from Pompeii. Photo: falco, Pixabay.

**FACT BOX**

**AD 79** Pompeii / cover in ash
**AD 79** many people / bury under the ash
**1863** the first casts / make with plaster

1 In AD 79, Pompeii _____

2 Many people _____

3 In 1863, the first casts _____

*Check: one thing → was. More than one → were. Then the past participle.*