

The Passive: Overview

GEOGRAPHY

OUTCOMES

- Recognize when to use the passive and when to mention the agent
- Use the passive with different tenses
- Identify specific information in a magazine article about geography
- Identify key details in an academic lecture
- Discuss and interpret international proverbs
- Discuss products found in geographical locations
- Write an essay about a familiar country

STEP 1

GRAMMAR IN CONTEXT

BEFORE YOU READ

Look at the title of the article and at the photo. Discuss the questions.

1. What is geography?
2. Have you ever studied geography in school? If yes, did you enjoy it?
3. Is geography an important subject? Why or why not?

READ

▶ 17/01 Read this article about *National Geographic*, a famous magazine.

Geography: The Best Subject on Earth

Geography is the study of the Earth and its people. It sounds exciting, doesn't it? Yet for decades, students yawned just hearing the word. They **were forced** to memorize the names of capital cities, important rivers and mountains, and natural resources. They **were taught** where places were and what **was produced** there. But they **weren't shown** how our world looks and feels.

And then came *National Geographic*. From the Amazon rain forest to the Sahara Desert, and from Baalbek to Great Zimbabwe, the natural



and human-made wonders¹ of our world **have** now **been brought** to life by its fascinating reporting and beautiful photographs, such as the one on page 270, which **was taken** by photojournalist² Reza Deghati, of a man planting a palm tree in Saudi Arabia.

The National Geographic Society **was formed** in Washington, D.C., in 1888 by a group of professionals including geographers, explorers, teachers, and mapmakers. Nine months later, the first *National Geographic* magazine **was published** so that the Society could fulfill its mission: to spread knowledge of and respect for the world, its resources, and its inhabitants.

In 1995, the first foreign-language edition of *National Geographic* **was published** in Japan. Today, the magazine **is printed** in English and more than forty local languages and **sold** all over the world. *National Geographic* also puts out a number of special publications. *National Geographic Explorer*, for example, **has been created** for classrooms. Other publications feature travel and adventure. *National Geographic* TV programs **are watched** in over 440 million homes in more than 170 countries, and digital editions **are read** by hundreds of thousands of people a month.

The study of geography has come a very long way since 1888. The Society's mission **has been fulfilled**. In fact, it **has even been extended** to include worlds beyond Earth. From the deep seas to deep space, geography has never been more exciting.

¹ wonders: things that make you feel surprise and admiration

² photojournalist: someone who takes photos and writes reports for newspapers and magazines

AFTER YOU READ

A VOCABULARY Match the words with their definitions.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| _____ 1. mission | a. a book or magazine sold to the public |
| _____ 2. respect | b. someone who travels for the purpose of discovery |
| _____ 3. publication | c. an important purpose |
| _____ 4. inhabitant | d. the total number of copies of a magazine or book printed at the same time |
| _____ 5. explorer | e. one of the people living in a particular place |
| _____ 6. edition | f. an attitude that shows you think someone or something is valuable or important |

B COMPREHENSION Answer the questions.

1. Who memorized names of capital cities? _____
2. What brought the wonders of our world to life? _____
3. Who took the photo of the Saudi man planting a palm tree? _____
4. Who formed the National Geographic Society? _____
5. Who reads digital editions of *National Geographic*? _____
6. How has the Society's mission changed? _____

C DISCUSSION Work with a partner. Compare your answers in B. Do you agree?

THE PASSIVE

Active	Passive
Millions of people buy it.	It is bought by millions of people.
Someone published it in 1888.	It was published in 1888.
They have reached their goal.	Their goal has been reached .

Passive Statements

Subject	Be (not)	Past Participle	(By + Object)	
It	is (not)	bought	by millions of people.	
It	was (not)	published		in 1888.
Their goal	has (not) been	reached.		

Yes/No Questions

Be/ Have	Subject	(Been +) Past Participle	
Is Was	it	sold	in Japan?
Has		been sold	

Short Answers

Affirmative			Negative		
Yes,	it	is. was. has (been).	No,	it	isn't. wasn't. hasn't (been).

Wh- Questions

Wh- Word	Be/ Have	Subject	(Been +) Past Participle
Where	is was	it	sold?
	has		been sold?

GRAMMAR NOTES

1 Active and Passive Sentences

Active and **passive** sentences often have similar meanings, but a **different focus**.

Active sentences focus on the **agent** (the person or thing doing the action).

Millions of people read the magazine.
(The focus is on the people.)

Passive sentences focus on the **object** (the person or thing receiving the action).

The magazine is read by millions of people.
(The focus is on the magazine.)

2 Forms of the Passive

Form the passive with **be** + **past participle**.

- simple present
- simple past
- present perfect

It **is printed** in more than forty languages.

It **was published** for the first time in 1888.

They **have been sold** all over the world.

Only **transitive verbs** (verbs that have objects) have passive forms.

TRANSITIVE VERB + OBJECT

Ed Bly **wrote** that article.

That article **was written** by Ed Bly. (passive form)

BE CAREFUL! **Intransitive verbs** do not have passive forms.

INTRANSITIVE VERB

It **arrived** on Monday.

NOT It ~~was arrived~~ on Monday. (no passive form)

3 Uses of the Passive

Use the passive when the **agent** (the person or thing doing the action) is **unknown or not important**.

The magazine **was started** in 1888.

(I don't know who started it.)

The magazine **is sold** online.

(It is not important who sells it.)

Use the passive when you want to **avoid mentioning** the agent.

Some mistakes **were made** in that article.

(I know who made the mistakes, but I don't want to blame the person.)

4 The Passive with By + Agent

Use the **passive** with **by** if you mention the agent.

Only mention the agent when it is **important** information.

The photographs in this article are wonderful. They **were taken by a professional**.

One of the first cameras **was invented by Alexander Wolcott**.

BE CAREFUL! In most cases, you do not need to mention an agent in passive sentences. Do not include an agent if the information is not necessary.

Ed Bly took a really great photo. It **was taken** last February.

NOT Ed Bly took a really great photo. It was taken last February ~~by him~~.

EXERCISE 1 DISCOVER THE GRAMMAR

GRAMMAR NOTES 1–4 Read the statements. Check (✓) Active or Passive.

	Active	Passive
1. The first <i>National Geographic</i> magazine was published in October 1888.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Today, millions of people read the magazine.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The magazine is translated from English into forty other languages.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. My cousin reads the Russian edition.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Some of the articles are written by famous writers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. <i>Young Explorer</i> , another publication, is written for kids.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. The publication is known for its wonderful photography.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. A <i>National Geographic</i> photographer took the first underwater color photos.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Photographers are sent all over the world.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. The articles show a lot of respect for nature.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. That picture was taken by Reza Deghati.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. <i>National Geographic</i> is sold at newsstands.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

EXERCISE 2 ACTIVE OR PASSIVE

GRAMMAR NOTES 1–4 The chart shows some of the forty language editions that *National Geographic* publishes. Use the chart to complete the sentences. Some sentences will be active; some will be passive.

Language	Number of Speakers*
Arabic	240
Chinese (all varieties)	1,200
English	340
Japanese	130
Korean	77
Russian	110
Spanish	410
Turkish	71

*first-language speakers in millions



- Spanish *is spoken by 410 million people*.
- Around 110 million people *speak Russian*.
- Arabic _____.
- _____ Chinese.

5. _____ by 77 million people.
6. _____ 130 million people.
7. Approximately 340 million people _____.
8. _____ 71 million people.

EXERCISE 3 WH- QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

A GRAMMAR NOTE 2 Jill Jones, a magazine journalist, is preparing for a trip to Bolivia. Look at the online travel quiz she is going to take. Complete the questions with the correct form of the verbs in parentheses. Then take the quiz. Guess the answers!

T R A V E L Q U I Z

Destination: La Paz, Bolivia

- In which part of the country _____ *is* _____ the capital _____ *located* _____ ?
 (locate)
☐ the north ☐ the center ☒ the west
- When _____ La Paz _____ *(establish)* _____ ?
☐ 1448 ☐ 1548 ☐ 1648
- Which of these items _____ *(produce)* _____ in La Paz?
☐ agricultural tools ☐ cars ☐ electric appliances
- What _____ the main street in La Paz _____ *(call)* _____ ?
☐ La Rambla ☐ El Prado ☐ El Alto
- Which sport _____ *(play)* _____ the most in La Paz?
☐ baseball ☐ soccer ☐ basketball

B Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in parentheses. The sentences contain the answers to the questions in A. Did you guess the answers correctly?

1. The highest capital in the world, La Paz was built
(build) in a canyon in the west of the country. It _____
(surround) by mountains, such as the beautiful Illimani mountain, which _____
(cover) by snow all year.
2. The city _____
(establish) in 1548 by Spanish settlers.
3. Agricultural tools along with food and tobacco products, clothing, and building materials _____
(make) in the capital.
4. The main street's name changes in different parts of the city, but the tree-lined section in downtown La Paz _____
(know) as El Prado.
5. Soccer is the most popular sport. The city has several soccer teams. The Strongest, which _____
(form) in 1908, has won many tournaments.

EXERCISE 4 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, AND SHORT ANSWERS

A GRAMMAR NOTE 2 Jill Jones is interviewing a Bolivian cultural attaché for an article she's writing. Complete her interview with the passive form of the correct verbs from the boxes and with short answers.

grow ~~inhabit~~ spell

JONES: Thanks for giving me some time today. Here's my first question: Was the area first inhabited
1.

ATTACHÉ: No, it wasn't
2. Long before the Inca, the Aymara created a great civilization around Lake Titicaca. In fact, the Aymara still live in Bolivia.

JONES: Interesting. Now, let's talk about farming. I know potatoes are an important food crop¹ in the mountains of the Andes.

_____ corn _____ there as well?
3.

ATTACHÉ: _____. The climate is too cold for corn. But quinoa grows well there.
4.

JONES: Quinoa? _____ that _____ with a k?
5.

¹ crop: a plant such as corn or wheat which is grown by a farmer



eat mine² use

ATTACHÉ: _____. You spell it with a *q*—*q-u-i-n-o-a*. Quinoa is a traditional grain, like corn and wheat in other places. It _____ by the inhabitants of the Andes since ancient times. In fact, it's been a major source of food for more than 5,000 years.

JONES: Now, everyone thinks of llamas when they think of Bolivia. What _____ these animals _____ for?

ATTACHÉ: Oh, for many things—clothing, meat, transportation. But they only do well high in the Andes.

JONES: I see. And what about other resources? I know that tin is extremely important in Bolivia. Where _____ it _____?

find make speak

ATTACHÉ: Well, the richest sources of tin _____ in the Andes.

JONES: And how about the eastern part of the country? What resources are in that region?

ATTACHÉ: In the Oriente? Oil and natural gas.

JONES: OK. Let's talk about languages now. I know Spanish is the official language of Bolivia. But, what other languages _____ in the country?

ATTACHÉ: Actually, more people speak Native American languages than Spanish.

JONES: That's interesting. Now, I know scientists love Bolivia for its wildlife. Are there still many jaguars there?

ATTACHÉ: Yes. In the last decades, conservation _____ a top priority by our government. It's become their mission to protect jaguars and other rare and beautiful animals. We must show these animals respect, or we risk losing them.

JONES: Well, thank you very much for your time. I'll send you a copy of our publication as soon as the article comes out.



B LISTEN AND CHECK Listen to the interview and check your answers in A.

² *mine*: to dig into the ground to get gold, coal, tin, and other natural resources



EXERCISE 5 AFFIRMATIVE AND NEGATIVE STATEMENTS

GRAMMAR NOTES 2–4 Read Jill Jones's article. Her editor has circled in red six mistakes in spelling or fact. Rewrite the correct sentences with information from Exercise 4. You will write two sentences for each item. The first sentence will show why the sentence is incorrect. The second sentence will give the correct information.

A Land of Contrasts

by Jill Jones

Visitors to Bolivia are amazed by the contrasts and charmed by the beauty of this South American country's landscapes—from the breathtaking Andes in the west to the tropical lowlands in the east.

Two-thirds of Bolivia's 10 million people are concentrated in the cool western highlands, or *altiplano*. Today, as in centuries past, corn[?] and kuinoa^{spelling?} are grown in the mountains. Llamas are raised only for transportation[?] And tin, Bolivia's richest natural resource, is mined in the high Andes.

The Oriente, another name for the eastern lowlands, is mostly tropical. Rice is the major food crop there. Rubber[?], oil, and natural gas are also found in this region.

Bolivia is home to many fascinating forms of wildlife. The condor, for example, is still seen flying above the highest mountains. Boa constrictors, jaguars, and many other animals are found in the rain forests.

Hundreds of years before the Inca flourished, a great civilization was created on the shores of the Pacific[?], probably by ancestors of Bolivia's Aymara people. Their descendants still speak the Aymara language. Today, Native American languages are still widely spoken in Bolivia. Although Portuguese[?] is spoken in the government, Quechua and Aymara are used more widely by the people. Traditional textiles are woven by hand. Music is played on reed pipes whose tone resembles the sound of the wind blowing over the high plains in the Andes.

Lake Titicaca

1. *Corn isn't grown in the mountains. Potatoes are grown there.*

2. _____

3. _____


4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

EXERCISE 6 INCLUDING OR DELETING THE AGENT

GRAMMAR NOTES 3–4 Read Ed Bly's soccer trivia column. Complete the information with the correct form of the verbs in the first set of parentheses. If the agent (in the second set of parentheses) is necessary, include it in your answer. If not, cross it out.



Soccer Trivia

- Soccer is the most popular sport in the world. It is played by more than 20 million people.
1. (play) (more than 20 million people)
- It is called football in 144 countries.
2. (call) ~~-(people)-~~
- Except for the goalie, players _____ to use their hands.
3. (not allow) (the rules)
Instead, the ball _____
4. (control) (the feet, the head, and the body)
- Soccer _____ very much in the United States until thirty years ago. Since then, the game _____
5. (not play) (people) 6. (make popular) (Pelé, Beckham, and other international stars)
- Forms of soccer _____ for thousands of years.
7. (play) (different cultures)
- A form of soccer _____ in China 2,000 years ago.
8. (enjoy) (Chinese people)
- It _____ in 1365—his archers spent too much time playing and too little time practicing archery.
9. (ban) (King Edward III of England)
- Medieval games _____ for entire days, over miles of territory.
10. (play) (players)
- Every four years, the best soccer teams in the world compete in the World Cup tournament.
This event _____
11. (organize) (FIFA)

EXERCISE 7 EDITING

GRAMMAR NOTES 1–4 Read this short biography of photojournalist Reza Deghati. (He took the photo on page 270.) There are eight mistakes in the use of the passive. The first mistake is already corrected. Find and correct seven more.

Seeing the World

^{was}
REZA DEGHATI ~~is~~ born in Tabriz, Iran, in 1952. When he was only fourteen years old, he began teaching himself photography. At first, he took pictures of his own country—its people and its architecture. When he was twenty-five, he was decided to become a professional. During a demonstration, he was asked by a French news agency to take photos. He only shot one and a half rolls of film (instead of the usual twenty to forty), but his photos was published in *Paris Match* (France), *Stern* (Germany), and *Newsweek* (U.S.A.).

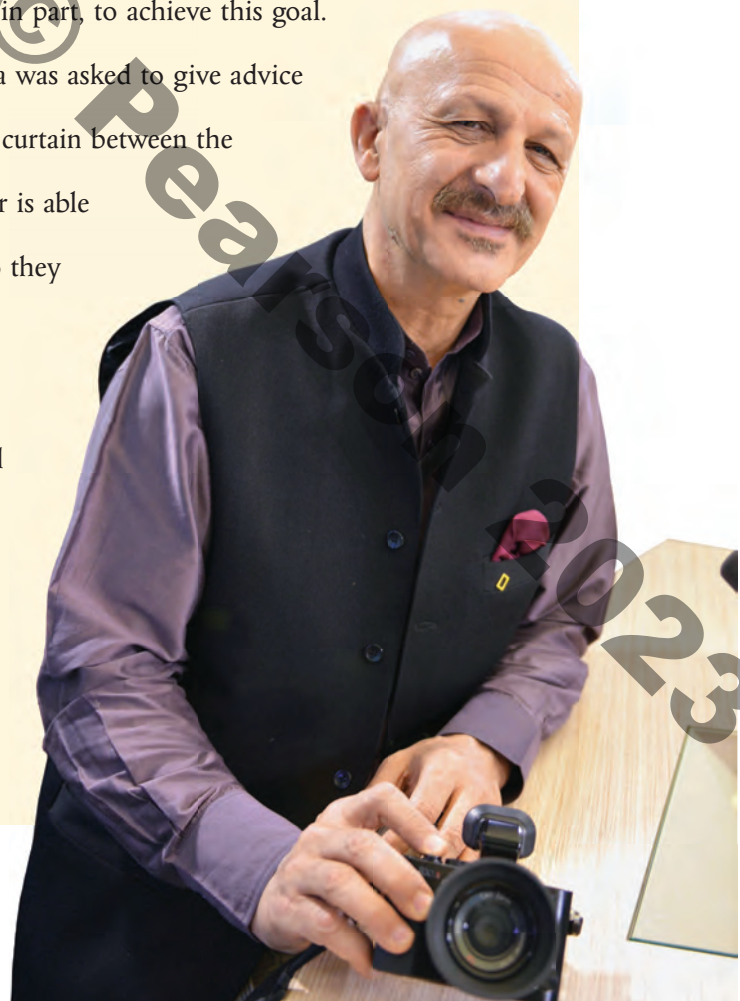
Reza, as he is knew professionally, has covered several wars, and he has be wounded on assignment.¹ Among all his assignments, the project dearest to his heart is photographing children, who he calls “the real victims of war.” He has donated these photos to humanitarian organizations. Always concerned with the welfare of children, Reza has made it his life’s mission to help them receive an education. His organization AINA created, in part, to achieve this goal.

When he was interviewed by an interviewer, Reza was asked to give advice to wannabe² photojournalists. He replied, “There is a curtain between the photographer and the subject unless the photographer is able to break through it. . . . Open your heart to people, so they know you care.”

Today, Reza Deghati lives in Paris. His photos is widely distributed in more than fifty countries around the world, and his work is published in *National Geographic* as well as many other internationally famous publications.

¹ *wounded on assignment*: injured on the job

² *wannabe*: (informal for want-to-be) a person who wants to become a member of a specific profession



EXERCISE 8 LISTENING

17:03

A Listen to a teacher talk about the country of Haiti. Then listen again and complete the student's notes.

Haiti

1. Officially, Haiti is called the Republic of Haiti.
2. It is located on the island of Hispaniola, which it shares with the Dominican Republic.
3. Haiti has by more than 10.6 million people.
4. Both French and Haitian Creole are spoken in Haiti.
5. Haiti was first really discovered by Christopher Columbus.
6. In 1492, Haiti was first by the Taino people.
7. Haiti was ruled by Spain for more than 100 years, and then by France.
8. Vetiver, a plant, is used to make perfume, body creams, and soap.
9. Coffee, mangoes, nuts, corn, rice, and other crops are grown in Haiti.
10. Many of these crops are exported to other countries.
11. Haiti attracts by more than a million tourists each year.
12. Since 2012, several new hotels have been built in Haiti.



17:03

B Work with a partner. Listen again. What did you learn about Haiti? What, if anything, surprised you?

EXAMPLE: **A:** I didn't know that two languages are spoken in Haiti.

B: Me neither. I knew that French is spoken there, but I didn't know about Haitian Creole.

A: I was also surprised to find out that...

EXERCISE 9 QUOTABLE QUOTES

DISCUSSION Work in a group. Read the proverbs from around the world. Choose three proverbs and discuss them. What do you think they mean? Are there proverbs from other cultures that mean the same thing?

1. Rome wasn't built in a day. (*English*)

EXAMPLE: **A:** I think this means that big projects aren't finished quickly.

B: Yes. They take a lot of time and you have to be patient.

C: There's a proverb in French that means the same thing: "Paris wasn't built in a day."

2. He who was bitten by a snake avoids tall grass. (*Chinese*)
3. He ran away from the rain and was caught in a hailstorm. (*Turkish*)
4. Never promise a fish until it's caught. (*Irish*)
5. Write the bad things that are done to you in sand, but write the good things that happen to you on a piece of marble. (*Arab*)
6. Skillful sailors weren't made by smooth seas. (*Ethiopian*)
7. From one thing, ten things are known. (*Korean*)
8. What is brought by the wind will be carried away by the wind. (*Iranian*)



EXERCISE 10 THE PHILIPPINES

A INFORMATION GAP Work with a partner. Student A will follow the instructions below. Student B will follow the instructions on page 487.

STUDENT A

- The Philippines consists of many islands and has many natural resources. Look at the map of Luzon and complete the chart. Write *Y* for Yes if Luzon has a particular resource and *N* for No if it does not.
- Student B has the map of Mindanao. Ask Student B questions about Mindanao and complete the chart for Mindanao.

EXAMPLE: A: Is tobacco grown in Mindanao?

B: No, it isn't.

- Student B doesn't have the map of Luzon. Answer Student B's questions about Luzon.

EXAMPLE: B: Is tobacco grown in Luzon?

A: Yes, it is. It's grown in the northern and central part of the island.



		MINDANAO	LUZON
GROW	tobacco	N	Y
	corn		
	bananas		
	coffee		
	pineapples		
	sugar		
RAISE	cattle		
	pigs		
MINE	gold		
	manganese		
PRODUCE	cotton		
	rubber		
	lumber		



B When you are finished, compare the charts. Are they the same?

EXERCISE 11 TRIVIA QUIZ

A GAME *National Geographic Explorer* often has games and puzzles. Work with a partner. Complete this quiz. Then compare answers with your classmates. The answers are at the bottom of this page.

Do you know...?

- Urdu is spoken in _____.
a. Ethiopia b. Pakistan c. Uruguay
- Air conditioning was invented in _____.
a. 1902 b. 1950 c. 1980
- The X-ray was invented by _____.
a. Thomas Edison b. Wilhelm Röntgen c. Marie Curie
- The Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur were designed by _____.
a. Minoru Yamasaki b. César Pelli c. I. M. Pei
- The 2016 Summer Olympics were held in _____.
a. Brazil b. Canada c. Japan
- An ocean route from Portugal to the East was discovered by Portuguese explorer _____.
a. Hernán Cortés b. Louis Jolliet c. Vasco da Gama
- A baby _____ is called a *cub*.
a. cat b. dog c. jaguar

B Work with your partner. Make up your own quiz questions with the words in parentheses. Ask another pair to answer your questions.

- _____ "Guernica" was painted _____ by _____.
(paint)
a. _____ Monet b. _____ Picasso c. _____ El Greco
- _____ by _____.
(invent)
a. _____ b. _____ c. _____
- _____ by _____.
(compose)
a. _____ b. _____ c. _____
- _____ by _____.
(write)
a. _____ b. _____ c. _____

Answers to Trivia Quiz: 1. b; 2. a; 3. b; 4. b; 5. a; 6. c; 7. c

FROM GRAMMAR TO WRITING

A BEFORE YOU WRITE Complete the chart with information about a country you know well.

Name of country	
Geographical areas	
Crops grown in each area	
Animals raised in each area	
Natural resources found in each area	
Birds or animals found in each area	
Languages spoken	
Art, handicrafts, or music created	

B WRITE Use the information to write an essay about the country. Use the passive. Try to avoid the common mistakes in the chart.

EXAMPLE: Turkey is both a European and an Asian country. European Turkey is separated from Asian Turkey by the Sea of Marmara, the Bosphorus, and the Dardanelles. Citrus fruits, such as lemon and oranges, and tobacco are grown in . . .

Common Mistakes in Using the Passive

Use the correct form of **be + past participle** to form the passive. Do not use the base form of the main verb.

Only mention the **agent** when it is important information. Do not mention the agent when it is unnecessary information.

Oranges **are grown** in Turkey.

NOT Oranges are ~~grow~~ in Turkey.

Tobacco **is grown**.

NOT Tobacco is grown ~~by tobacco farmers~~.

C CHECK YOUR WORK Read your essay. Underline all the passive forms. Circle **by + agent**. Use the Editing Checklist to check your work.

Editing Checklist

Did you use . . . ?

- ☐ passive sentences to focus on the object
- ☐ the correct form of the passive (*be + past participle*)
- ☐ *by* if you mentioned the agent
- ☐ the agent only when it was important information

D REVISE YOUR WORK Read your essay again. Can you improve your writing? Make changes if necessary. Give your essay a title.

UNIT 17 REVIEW

Test yourself on the grammar of the unit.

A Complete with active and passive sentences.

Active

1. They speak Spanish in Bolivia.
2. _____
3. _____
4. They translated the articles into Spanish.
5. They grow quinoa in the mountains.
6. _____

Passive

- _____
- Soccer is played in Bolivia.
- The photo was taken by Reza Deghati.
- _____
- _____
- The main street was named El Prado.

B Complete the sentences with the correct passive form of the verbs in parentheses.

1. Jamaica _____ by Europeans in the sixteenth century.
(discover)
2. Today, Creole, a mixture of languages, _____ by many Jamaicans.
(speak)
3. Some of the best coffee in the world _____ on the island.
(grow)
4. Sugar _____ to many countries.
(export)
5. Many people _____ by the sugar industry.
(employ)
6. Reggae music originated in Jamaica. It _____ popular by Bob Marley.
(make)
7. Since the summer of 1992, it _____ at the Sunfest festival on the island.
(perform)
8. Every year, the festival _____ by music lovers from around the world.
(attend)

C Find and correct six mistakes.

Photojournalist Alexandra Avakian was born and raise in New York. Since she began her career, she has covered many of the world's most important stories. Her work have been published in many newspapers and magazines including *National Geographic*, and her photographs have being exhibited around the world. Avakian has also written a book, *Window of the Soul: My Journey in the Muslim World*, which was been published in 2008. It has not yet been translated by translators into other languages, but the chapter titles appear in both English and Arabic. Avakian's book have be discussed on international TV, radio, and numerous websites.

Now check your answers on page 479.