Past simple passive

1 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1 Liquid Paper was ____________ (invent) by Bessie Nesmith in 1951.
2 Penicillin was ____________ (discover) by Alexander Fleming.
3 The first telegraph system was ____________ (build) by Samuel Morse in 1835.
4 The first radio transmission across the Atlantic was ____________ (make) on December 12, 1901.
5 The World Wide Web was ____________ (launch) in 1990 after Tim Berners-Lee created the first browser.
6 The first commercial mobile phones were ____________ (sell) by NTT in Japan in 1979.

2 In 1655 Huygens (3) discovered / was discovered Titan, the largest moon of Saturn.
3 The first microwave ovens (4) produced / were produced by The Raytheon Corporation in 1954.
4 In 1928 the colour TV (5) developed / was developed by John Logie Baird. Two years later he (6) made / was made the first public TV broadcast.
5 The first book in English (7) printed / was printed in about 1474 by William Caxton.
6 The first designs of a submarine (8) made / were made by Leonardo da Vinci.

3 Rewrite each sentence using the passive.

Orville and Wilbur Wright built and flew the first aeroplane.
The first aeroplane was built and flown by Orville and Wilbur Wright.

1 Marie Curie discovered radium in 1898.
Radium ________________ by Marie Curie in 1898.

2 The Egyptians built the first pyramids.
The first pyramids ________________ by the Egyptians.

3 Marconi made the radio popular.
The radio ________________ by Marconi.

The past simple passive is formed with:
- the past tense of the verb be (was or were) + past participle.

The first real aeroplane was built in 1903.
We use by + noun when we want to say who does the action.

The first real aeroplane was flown by Orville and Wilbur Wright.

Choose the correct words to complete the sentences. Be careful! Not all the sentences are passive.

1 Most people think the electric light bulb (1) invented / was invented by Thomas Edison, but in fact it was Humphry Davy who (2) invented / was invented it in 1800.
4 Erno Rubik invented his famous cube in 1977.
   The Rubik cube ____________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   by Erno Rubik.
5 Shakespeare wrote Romeo and Juliet and Hamlet.
   Romeo and Juliet and Hamlet ______________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
6 Leonardo da Vinci painted the Mona Lisa.
   The Mona Lisa ____________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________