Voice Detective

Spot who does the action in each sentence.

8.L.GC.1 "Grammar, Usage, & Mechanics: Draw from knowledge of the conventions of Standard English grammar, usage, and mechanics when analyzing and constructing texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

ACTIVE VOICE

In active voice, the subject performs the action. The sentence clearly tells who or what acts.

The violinist tuned her instrument.

PASSIVE VOICE

In passive voice, the subject receives the action. The actor may appear in a phrase beginning with by.

The tickets were collected at the gate.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle ACTIVE or PASSIVE for each sentence, then choose two sentences and explain how you knew which category each one belongs to.

1. The chef prepared the soup. ACTIVE PASSIVE

2. The mural was painted by students. ACTIVE PASSIVE

3. A new trail was opened last spring. ACTIVE PASSIVE

4. The storm damaged several roofs. ACTIVE PASSIVE

5. Our team will present the findings. ACTIVE PASSIVE

6. The final score was announced by the referee. ACTIVE PASSIVE

7. The librarian recommends this mystery novel. ACTIVE PASSIVE

8. The engineers designed a safer bridge. ACTIVE PASSIVE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new active-voice sentence and one new passive-voice sentence about topics not used above.

ACTIVE _____

PASSIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite this sentence in active voice by naming who acted: The package was delivered before noon.

Voice Detective

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The chef prepared the soup.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, chef, performs the action.
2	The mural was painted by students.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, mural, receives the action.
3	A new trail was opened last spring.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, trail, receives the action.
4	The storm damaged several roofs.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, storm, performs the action.
5	Our team will present the findings.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, team, performs the action.
6	The final score was announced by the referee.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, score, receives the action.
7	The librarian recommends this mystery novel.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, librarian, performs the action.
8	The engineers designed a safer bridge.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, engineers, performs the action.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **ACTIVE**: The botanist measured the seedlings.
- **PASSIVE**: The lantern was carried by Maya.

Challenge: The courier delivered the package before noon.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, students should identify whether the subject performs or receives the action. Accept varied original sentences in Part 3 if they use active and passive voice correctly.