

# From Africa ... to Wembley



By John Utaka

  
**GOAL!**

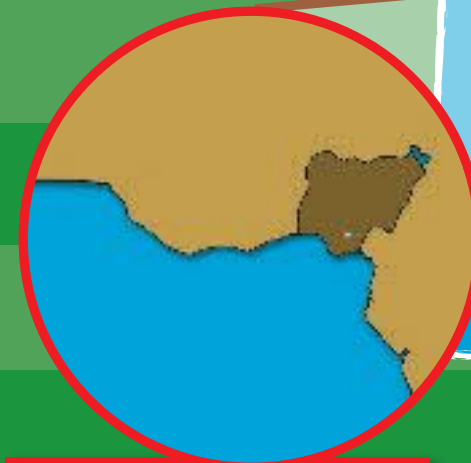
My name is John Utaka.  
I am a striker and I play  
for Portsmouth F.C.



I play football in England, but I was not  
born here. I was born in Nigeria, in Africa.

2

This is Africa ...



... and this is my  
country. Nigeria.



This is the city of Enugu. I was born there.

3

When I was a boy in Africa, we did not have much. It was hard.

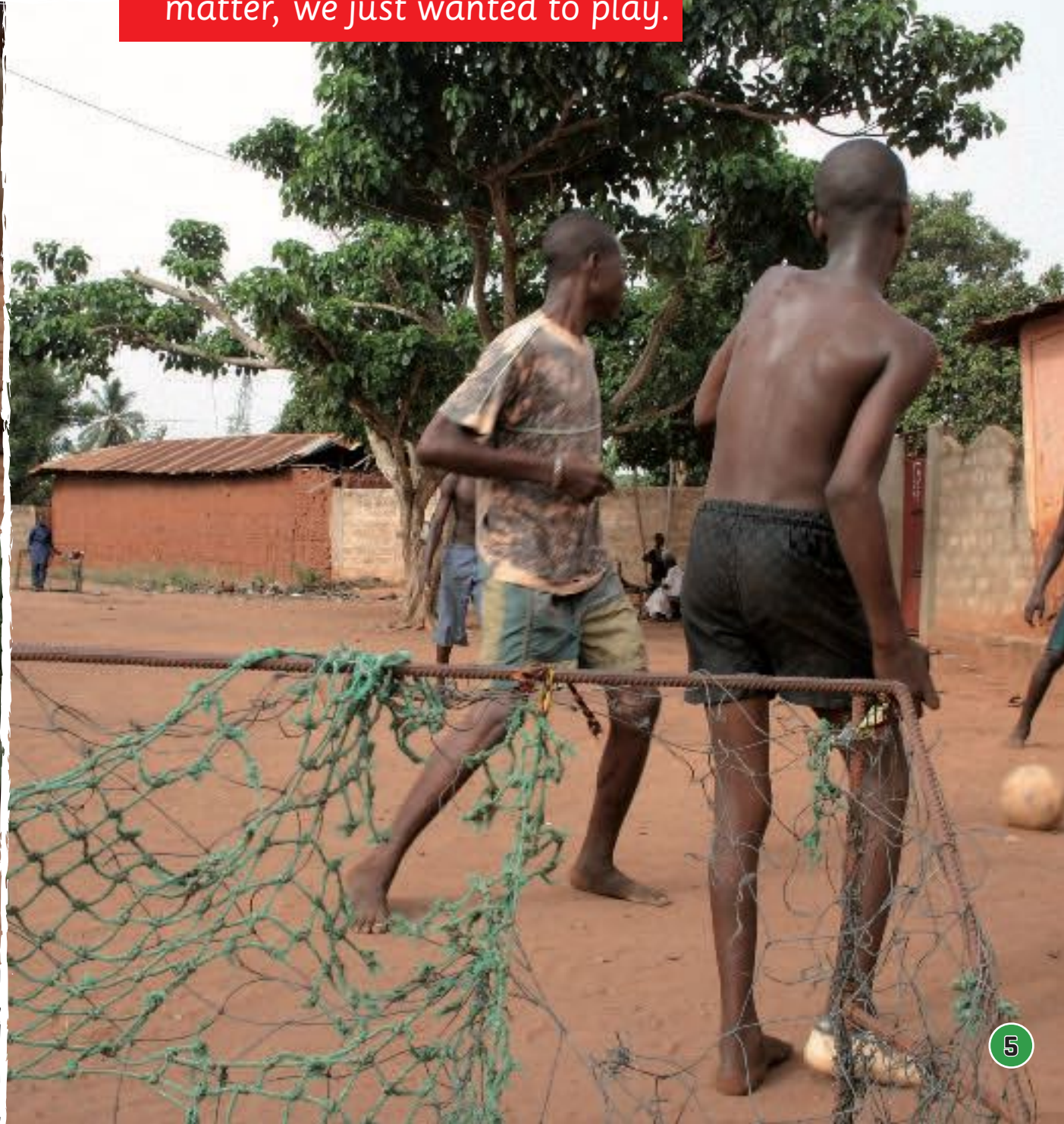


But we were kids and we played football all the time.



4 We had no football pitches, or goals, or kit. All the kids played in the street.

Nobody had shoes, or football boots. And we had rocks for goalposts. But it didn't matter, we just wanted to play.



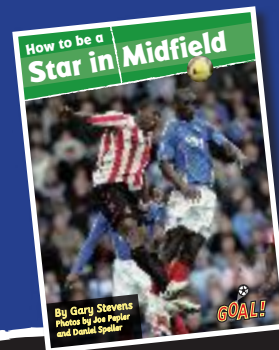
5

My career so far has been great. But I had to work hard. Winning the F.A. Cup with Portsmouth has been the best thing so far. Now I just want to win more cups and get better as a player.



That's not a lot to ask, is it?

## Have you seen these?



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