

Muhammad Ali – the greatest boxer in the world

Kinshasa is a big town in the Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa. The time is four o'clock in the morning on 30th October 1974. It is night but it is very hot. Many people and their children are not in bed. They are very happy.

Muhammad Ali and George Foreman are in the boxing ring.

Muhammad is looking at George. This is the big one! This is the big fight!

The men are big too. They are big, heavy boxers of 100 kilos each. They are boxing to find out who is the Heavyweight Champion of the World. The champion is the best boxer in the world. Ali looks at George again and Ali is happy. Ali can fight very well.

The men from the television and from the radio are there. Millions of people are going to see the big fight between the two heavy men. Who is going to be the champion? The people are waiting.

The fight starts. The people near the ring are quiet. Ali hits Foreman. He hits him again and again. The fight is for fifteen 'rounds'. A 'round' is three minutes of a fight. A fight for the champion is for fifteen rounds and is about an hour long. Each round the fighters stop for one minute. It is now round eight. Ali hits Foreman very hard. He hits him so hard, Foreman falls. He does not stand up again. Ali knocks out Foreman. The knock-out comes in round eight. Ali wins. He beats Foreman. The people are not quiet now. The winner is Muhammad Ali. He is now the Heavyweight Champion of the World. People see him on television. All the cameras are on Ali, and Foreman is sad.

People say: 'Ali wins! Ali wins! Long live Ali!' Ali is very, very happy. He says: 'I'm good. I'm very good. I'm great. I'm the best. I'm the greatest. I'm the greatest fighter in the world. I'm the champion!'

An hour after the big fight, it rains and rains in Kinshasa, but the people are very happy.

What is the name of the greatest boxer in the world, Cassius Clay or Muhammad Ali?
Cassius Clay is the old name of Muhammad Ali. The name of his father is Cassius Clay too. The name of his mother is Odessa Clay. His family live in Louisville, Kentucky, in the USA. The family is poor and does not have much money.

All his life, Cassius Clay fights. He likes to fight and he is good. He fights in the boxing ring, and he fights people with words.

After 1964 he has a new name – Muhammad Ali. He has a Muslim name. But a lot of people call him the 'The Greatest', or 'The Champ'. 'Champ' is a short word for champion and the champion is the best, the greatest.

Muhammad Ali was the greatest boxer in the world.

New words for this article

1	champion	the winner and the best sports person in one sport
2	rounds	the 3 minute long parts of a boxing match
3	ring	the place where boxers go to fight
4	to beat	to win, to be better than someone

Comprehension Questions

- 1 Where did Muhammad Ali fight against George Foreman?
- 2 Who won the fight?
- 3 How many rounds did they fight?
- 4 What is Muhammad Ali's name before?

4	Cassius Clay
3	For 8 rounds
2	Muhammad Ali won the fight
1	In Kinshasa

Comprehension questions -

Answers