

Hakeem Olajuwon

Part 1: Early Life

1. Hakeem Olajuwon was born on January 21, 1963.
2. Hakeem was born in Lagos, Nigeria.
3. Hakeem had eight brothers and sisters.

Part 2: Learning Basketball

4. Hakeem started playing basketball when he was 15 years old.
5. Before basketball, Hakeem played soccer and handball.
6. Hakeem went to college at the University of Houston in Texas.

Part 3: College Career

7. Hakeem's college team was called "Phi Slama Jama."
8. Hakeem's college team went to the NCAA championship game three years in a row.

Part 4: Professional Career

9. Hakeem played for the Houston Rockets for most of his career.
10. Hakeem played the position of center in basketball.

Part 5: Playing Style

11. Hakeem's special moves were called "The Dream Shake."
12. Hakeem was fast for a tall player.

Part 6: Achievements

13. Hakeem won two NBA championships.
14. Hakeem was the Most Valuable Player (MVP) in 1994.
15. Hakeem was an All-Star 12 times.

Part 7: Playing for His Country

16. Hakeem played for Nigeria and the United States in international games.

17. Hakeem won a gold medal in the 1996 Olympics.

Part 8: Life Outside Basketball

18. Hakeem's religion is Islam (he is a Muslim).

19. Hakeem speaks four languages: English, Arabic, French, and Yoruba.

Part 9: After Basketball

20. Hakeem retired from basketball in 2002.

21. After basketball, Hakeem invests in real estate and has his own clothing line.

Part 10: Legacy

22. Hakeem's name can be found in the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Vocabulary Practice

23. To "dunk" in basketball means to score by putting the ball directly through the hoop with your hands.

24. A "draft" in professional sports is when professional teams choose new players.

25. "Retired" means stopped working or playing professionally.