

# Twickenham Stadium, London

## Activity 1

What do these adjectives refer to?

- largest \_\_\_\_\_
- great \_\_\_\_\_
- popular \_\_\_\_\_
- passionate \_\_\_\_\_
- terrible \_\_\_\_\_
- exciting \_\_\_\_\_
- amazing \_\_\_\_\_

## Activity 2

Answer these questions:

Which is the biggest stadium in the UK?

\_\_\_\_\_

When did Twickenham become the home of English rugby?

\_\_\_\_\_

How much did the RFU pay for the land?

\_\_\_\_\_

Which team play at Croke Park?

\_\_\_\_\_

And at Murrayfield?

\_\_\_\_\_

Who or what was 'The Vacuum'?

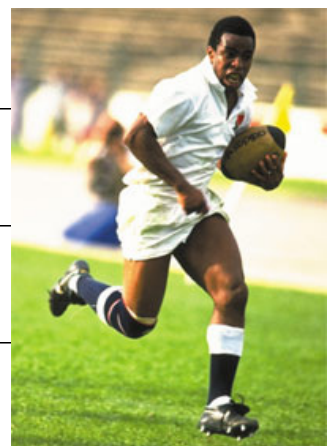
\_\_\_\_\_

Who is Chris Oti?

\_\_\_\_\_

How many people can watch a concert in the stadium?

\_\_\_\_\_



### Activity 3

Listen and complete the gaps

Twickenham Stadium, or 'Twickers' as it is affectionately known, is the \_\_\_\_\_ of English rugby. It isn't the biggest stadium in the United Kingdom, that is Wembley, but it is the \_\_\_\_\_ rugby stadium. 82,000 fans can sit down and watch the match, with a great view from every part of the ground.

Just over 100 years ago, in 1907, the Rugby Football Union, the \_\_\_\_\_, bought a piece of land in Twickenham for £5,500. It was originally used for growing cabbages and even today the ground is sometimes called The Cabbage Patch. Anyway, the RFU built the first \_\_\_\_\_ stands in 1908 and the stadium has grown and grown from then on.



Rugby is a very popular sport in the UK, and the fans are extremely \_\_\_\_\_ about it. The Welsh fans singing their songs in the Millennium Stadium, the Irish at Croke Park or the \_\_\_\_\_ at Murrayfield will make the hairs on the back of your neck stand up. And I know, because I'm lucky enough to have seen matches at these stadiums. Twickenham, however, was known as 'The Vacuum' because it didn't have a very good \_\_\_\_\_. That was until 1988, when England were in the middle of a terrible run of results. They couldn't score points and the play was not at all \_\_\_\_\_. Then, during the second half of the match against Ireland, England started to play well. Indeed, Chris Oti, a black player, scored three tries and England went on to win the match with \_\_\_\_\_ points. Some sections of the crowd started to sing a traditional negro spiritual song, Swing Low, Sweet Chariot, in honour of this \_\_\_\_\_ performance by Chris Oti. Suddenly the atmosphere at Twickenham changed and the stadium had at last found a song to rival those of the other \_\_\_\_\_ teams. This song is now synonymous with English rugby and you can hear it at the stadium and in rugby clubs up and down England.

The Cabbage Patch is also used for other events, mainly concerts. In recent years \_\_\_\_\_ such as The Rolling Stones, Genesis, The Police and U2 have played in front of 55,000 fans – 27,000 less than for a rugby international and probably without England's anthem, Sweet Low Swing Chariot!

## Transcript

Twickenham Stadium, or 'Twickers' as it is affectionately known, is the home of English rugby. It isn't the biggest stadium in the United Kingdom, that is Wembley, but it is the largest rugby stadium. 82,000 fans can sit down and watch the match, with a great view from every part of the ground.

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The Cabbage Patch is also used for other events, mainly concerts. In recent years bands such as The Rolling Stones, Genesis, The Police and U2 have played in front of 55,000 fans – 27,000 less than for a rugby international and probably without England's anthem, *Sweet Low Swing Chariot!*