

THE WORLD CUP



1 Prepare.

1. Do you like to watch the World Cup?
2. What do you know about the history of the tournament?

The 2026 World Cup

The FIFA World Cup® is a men's football tournament held every four years, usually in the summer. Regional qualifying rounds take place up to three years prior to the final tournament, which is celebrated at a neutral site. It's the most popular sporting event in the world, with billions of people tuning in.

This competition was first broadcast live in 1954 (Switzerland), but only to a limited number of countries. The 1966 tournament, in England, was the first time that people on different continents could watch the game on television.

In Mexico, 1970, people could watch the games in color, a major technological and commercial breakthrough. Almost a seventh of the world population viewed the final match in 2018, the most watched in World Cup history.

The first tournament took place in Uruguay, in 1930, and the hosts were the first world champions after defeating Argentina. Since then, 17 countries have hosted the tournament, with Mexico, Italy, France, Germany, and Brazil being the only countries to do so more than once. Eight national teams have won the tournament, with Brazil having won five of them.

The 2026, the tournament will take place in Mexico, the USA and Canada . Because these are very large countries, teams will only play in selected regions. It is also the first time that 48 teams will play each other. Usually, 32 teams have always competed in the World Cup.



Glossary

host (verb): to arrange a special event and provide the area, buildings, equipment, or services needed for it

host (noun): a place or organization that arranges a special event and provides the area, buildings, equipment, or services needed for it

2. Understand

A Choose the correct answer.

1. Almost a seventh of the world watched...
 - a ... the 2006 World Cup tournament.
 - b ... the final World Cup match in 2018.
2. In 1930, Uruguay...
 - a ... hosted and won the first World Cup.
 - b ... invented football.
3. The tournament will be ...
 - a ... the first to have 48 teams competing.
 - b ... held in the USA only.
4. The team to win the most World Cups ...
 - a ... is Italy with many wins.
 - b ... is Brazil with 5 titles.

5. People could first watch the World Cup on television...
- a ... in 1954.
 - b ... in 1970.
6. The first tournament broadcast in colour was held in...
- a ... Mexico.
 - b ... Germany.
7. The 2026 World Cup has teams playing in selected regions because ...
- a ... some regions have loyal fans and like some countries more.
 - b ... the countries are very large and traveling is difficult.

3 Exploring the topic

- a. Choose one of the topics below. Research it and make notes.
- the first time your country took part in the World Cup
 - Pelé / Maradona / Messi
 - teams with the most wins: Brazil / Italy / Germany
 - the Golden Boot and its winners
- b. Use your notes to write one more paragraph for the article about an important event in the history of the World Cup.



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1 Answers.

A Choose the correct answer.

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