The World Cup

What Is The World Cup?

The World Cup is a football event including teams from around the world. The international event takes place every four years. It was first held in 1930 and has only been cancelled twice (in 1942 and 1946) due to the Second World War. The World Cup can take place in any country around the world. In recent years, it has been held in Germany (2006), South Africa (2010) and Brazil (2014).

The World Cup 2018

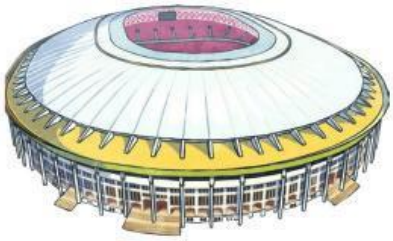
In 2018, the 21st World Cup will be held in Russia. It will be held from 14th June to 15th July 2018 and will be the first time that Russia has hosted The World Cup.

The final tournament will include 32 national teams with 31 of these having been determined through qualifying matches. The host team (Russia) will qualify automatically. In total, 64 matches will be played in 12 different football stadiums across 11 cities.

The teams will be split into eight groups of four teams, with England in Group G alongside Belgium, Panama and Tunisia. Following the Group Stage matches, the top two teams from each group will go through to the Knockout Stage. This stage consists of a round of 16 teams, quarter-finals, semi-finals and the final. The final will be played at Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow.

Symbols of The World Cup

Every World Cup has an emblem or badge. For the 2018 World Cup, it was revealed by Russian cosmonauts at the International Space Station before being projected onto the side of a large theatre in the Russian capital, Moscow. The emblem takes the shape of the World Cup trophy with the bright colours of red, gold, black and blue, inspired by historical Russian art.



Another important item which is always present at The World Cup is the animal mascot. For 2018, this

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will be a wolf wearing orange glasses, a blue and white T-shirt and red shorts. White, blue and red are the national colours of the Russian team and the wolf's name means 'the one who scores' in Russian. The mascot was designed by a student and voted for on the Internet.

Awards and Prizes

The winning team are presented with a gold trophy which they only keep until the post-match celebrations are over. They then receive a gold-plated copy of the trophy to take home. All members of the top three teams receive medals with an image of the World Cup trophy on them in gold (winners), silver (runners-up) or bronze (third place).

Did You Know...?

The original World Cup trophy was stolen twice! The first time was in London in 1966, when a dog called Pickles found it wrapped in newspaper under a hedge. The second time was in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1983; it was never found so a new trophy had to be made.

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Questions

1. In which year was The World Cup first held? Tick one.

   - ○ 1930
   - ○ 1942
   - ○ 1946
   - ○ 2006

2. Match the host country to the year it hosted The World Cup.

South Africa	2006
Brazil	2010
Germany	2014

3. Fill in the missing words in the following sentence:
   In 2018, the 21st World Cup will be held in _____ from _____ to _____ 2018.

4. Find and copy a word or phrase which shows that **the trophy that the winning teams keep is not the real one**.

   _____

5. Summarise the fourth paragraph in 40 words or less.

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

6. Why do you think that the mascot is wearing red, white and blue?

   _____

   _____

   _____

7. Why do you think that teams are not allowed to keep the real trophy?

   _____

   _____

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Questions

1. Which of these is not a team playing in Group G with England? Tick one.

   - ○ Belgium
   - ○ Panama
   - ○ Russia
   - ○ Tunisia

2. Match the symbol to its description.

Emblem	A wolf whose name means 'the one who scores' in Russian.
Mascot	A bright red, gold, black and blue image of the World Cup trophy.
Trophy	The winning team receives a gold-plated version to take away.

3. When and where was the first World Cup held?

   _____

4. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:
   In total, _____ matches will be played in _____ different football stadiums across _____ cities.

5. Find and copy a phrase from the text which shows that **the mascot will motivate the teams and crowds.**

   _____

6. Sum up the emblem and why it was chosen, in less than 40 words.

   _____

   _____

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Questions

1. In which years did The World Cup not take place? Tick two.

   - ○ 1930
   - ○ 1942
   - ○ 1946
   - ○ 2006

2. What is the only reason that The World Cup has ever been cancelled?

   _____

3. Match the dates to the events.

1966	The original World Cup trophy was stolen in Rio de Janeiro.
1970	The Brazilian team won the trophy to keep.
1983	The original World Cup trophy was stolen in London.

4. Find and copy three countries that will play in the same group as England.

   _____

   _____

   _____

5. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

   In _____, Russia will host the _____ World Cup, from _____. It will be the _____ time that Russia has hosted The World Cup.

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6. Why do you think the players are some of the best around the world?

7. Why do you think that Pickles ended up in a lot of newspapers? Explain your answer.

8. Why is it clear who the mascot is supporting? Explain your answer.

9. Summarise the second paragraph in 40 words or less.

10. Why do you think that the stadiums being used are all close to Europe?

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