Warm-Up

Name _____

21 The World Cup

The World Cup is one of the biggest sporting events in the world. This great soccer championship features players from thirty-two nations. Each nation wants to win the cup by becoming the number one soccer team. The World Cup is a worldwide contest that takes place only once every four years. However, it holds the attention of much of the planet when the games begin. The World Cup was created in 1928, and the first World Cup games were held in Uruguay in 1930. It was an all-male contest at the time. The first women's World Cup was held in China in 1991.

Soccer is not quite as popular in the United States as basketball, football, or baseball. However, it still has millions of followers. People all over the world often get up in the middle of the night or skip work to watch their nation's team compete. More than five billion people watch the final match on television. That is most of the people living on the planet. During the contests leading up to the final game, people in the winning nations often hold street parties to celebrate their teams' **victories**.

Some countries seem to be the best in the game for a period of time. When Pele played for Brazil in 1970, his team won the World Cup. Brazil's team is considered one of the greatest. Pele is regarded as the best soccer player by many fans. Brazil has won a total of five World Cups, far more than any other nation.

Check Your Understanding

1. Who is Pele?
- a. a coach
- b. an average soccer player
- c. a Brazilian team
- d. one of the greatest soccer players

2. When was the first women's World Cup?
- a. 1928
- b. 1997
- c. 1930
- d. 1991

3. Which of the following is the best topic sentence?
- a. paragraph one, first sentence
- b. paragraph two, first sentence
- c. paragraph three, first sentence
- d. paragraph one, last sentence

4. From the context of the passage, which is the best antonym for **victories**?
- a. wins
- b. happiness
- c. results
- d. defeats

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LIVEWORKSHEETS