

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.

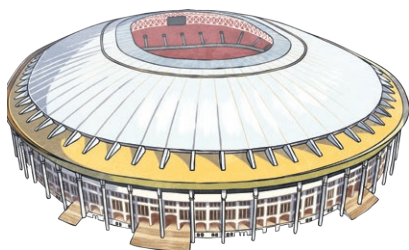
The final tournament will include 32 national teams with 31 of these having been determined through qualifying matches. The host team (Russia) will qualify automatically. In total, 64 matches will be played in 12 different football stadiums across 11 cities.

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

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.

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?

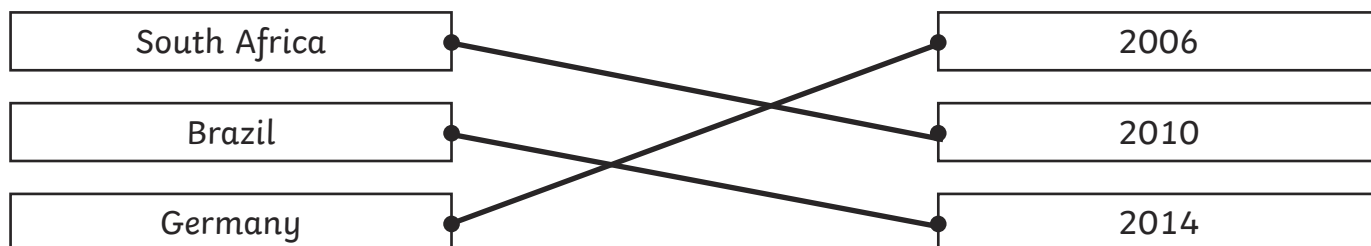
7. Why do you think that teams are not allowed to keep the real trophy?

Answers

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.



3. Fill in the missing words in the following sentence:

In 2018, the 21st World Cup will be held in **Russia** from **14th June** to **15th July** 2018.

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

version of the trophy

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

Pupils' own responses, such as: Eight groups of four teams will play the Group Stage matches; the top two teams from each group go on to the Knockout stage, progressing through a stage with 16 teams, quarter-finals, semi-finals and the final.

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

Pupils' own responses, such as: The national colours of the Russian football team are red, white and blue so the mascot is wearing these colours to support the home team.

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

Pupils' own responses, such as: The original World Cup trophy was stolen twice so a new trophy had to be made. They now look after the new trophy very carefully to avoid it being stolen.

The World Cup

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The World Cup 2018



In 2018, the 21st World Cup will be held in Russia, from 14th June to 15th July 2018. This 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 and the host team (Russia) qualifying automatically. In total, 64

matches will be played in 12 different football stadiums across 11 cities by some of the best football players around the world.

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 (based on points from the Group Stage games) 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, which will be played at Luzhniki Stadium in the Russian capital, Moscow.

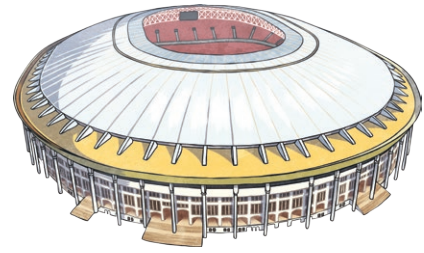


Symbols of The World Cup

Every World Cup has an official emblem (a symbolic object or badge for a nation, organisation or family). For the 2018 World Cup, it was revealed by **cosmonauts** on the **International Space Station (ISS)** before being projected onto the side of a large theatre in Moscow during an evening television programme. This year, 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. The magic ball

at the top of the emblem signifies the world's love of football and the magic and dreams that it inspires in millions of fans across the world.

Always present at any World Cup is the official mascot (a person or thing that is supposed to bring good luck). For 2018, this will be a wolf, whose name means 'the one who scores' in Russian, wearing orange glasses, a blue and white T-shirt and red shorts. The combination of white, blue and red reflect the national colours of the Russian team. The mascot, designed by a student and voted for on the Internet, will encourage players to score and fans to support their teams with lots of cheering!



Awards and Prizes

At the end of the tournament, the winning team will be presented with a gold trophy, which they only keep until the post-match celebrations are completed. They then receive a gold-plated version of the trophy to take away. All members of the top three teams receive medals depicting an image of the World Cup trophy 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.

Glossary

cosmonauts: Russian astronauts.

International Space Station (ISS): A space station, or artificial satellite, where people can live within a low Earth orbit.

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.

7. Why do you think that the mascot was chosen?

8. Why has the author included a glossary in this text? Choose one other word to add to the glossary, writing a definition for it.

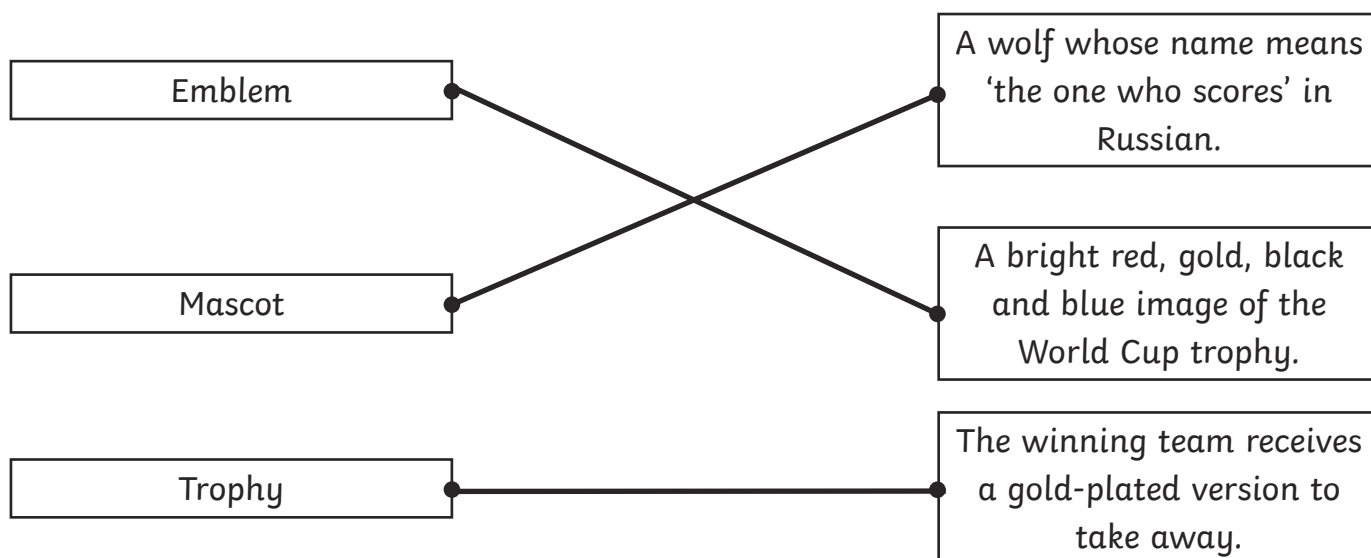
9. Would you like to watch a World Cup match? Give two reasons to support your choice.

Answers

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.



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

The first World Cup was held in Uruguay in 1930.

4. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

In total, **64** matches will be played in **12** different football stadiums across **11** cities.

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

will encourage players to score and fans to support their teams

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

Pupils' own responses, such as: A bright red, gold, black and blue World Cup-shaped emblem, inspired by Russia's historic art, signifies a love of football and the magic and dreams it brings to many fans worldwide.

7. Why do you think that the mascot was chosen?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Its name means 'the one who scores' in Russian and this mascot is wearing the Russian national colours so it was probably chosen as a good mascot to support the home team.

8. Why has the author included a glossary in this text? Choose one other word to add to the glossary, writing a definition for it.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the writer has included a glossary because the reader might need to look up or check what some of the words mean

international: Occurring between nations.

9. Would you like to watch a World Cup match? Give two reasons to support your choice.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I would like to watch a World Cup match because I am a football fan so I would enjoy seeing the best players from around the world. I would also enjoy the atmosphere created by the mascot when the crowd cheers the players on.

The World Cup

Including footballers from around the world, The World Cup is an international event which takes place every four years. It was first held in Uruguay, 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 and, in recent years, has been held in Germany (2006), South Africa (2010) and Brazil (2014). In 2018, the 21st World Cup will be held in Russia from 14th June to 15th July 2018. It will be the first time that Russia has hosted The World Cup.



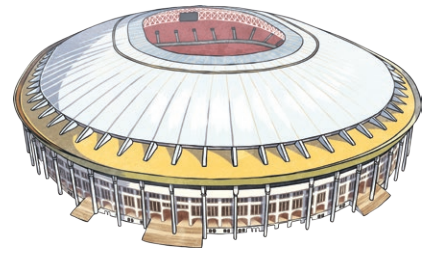
Following qualification, which is determined through qualifying matches, the final tournament will include 32 national teams. However, the host team (Russia) will qualify automatically without playing in any matches. During the tournament, a total of 64 matches will be played in 12 different football stadiums across 11 cities, all close to Europe, by some of the best football players around the world.

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 (based on points from the Group Stage games – 1 point per draw; 3 points per win) from each group will go through to the Knockout Stage, which consists of a round of 16 teams, quarter-finals, semi-finals and the final. This will be played at Luzhniki Stadium in the Russian capital, Moscow.



Every World Cup has an official emblem (a symbolic object or badge for a nation, organisation or family). For the 2018 World Cup, it was revealed by cosmonauts (Russian astronauts), who were onboard the International Space Station (a space station, or artificial satellite, where people can live within a low Earth orbit), before being projected onto the side of a large theatre in Moscow during an evening television programme. This year, 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. The magic ball at the top of the emblem signifies the world's love of football and the magic and dreams that it inspires in millions of fans across the world.



Always present at any World Cup is the official mascot (a person or thing that is supposed to bring good luck) and 2018 is no different. A mascot, whose name means 'the one who scores' in Russian, will take the role of encouraging players to score and fans to support them. Designed by a student and voted for on the Internet, the mascot is a wolf wearing orange glasses, a blue and white T-shirt and red shorts. The white, blue and red representing the national colours of the Russian team. This mascot's true allegiance is clear!

At the end of the tournament, the winning team are presented with the gold World Cup trophy, which, due to its high value, they only keep until the post-match celebrations are complete. They then receive a gold-plated replica of the trophy to take away. All members of the top three teams, including players, coaches and managers, receive medals depicting the World Cup trophy in gold (winners), silver (runners-up) and 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. He ended up in a lot of newspapers himself!

In 1970, the Brazilian team were presented with the original trophy to keep (after they won the tournament for the third time) and placed it on display in Rio de Janeiro. However, in 1983, it was stolen again and is thought to have been melted down! Therefore, a new trophy – the one still used today – was made.

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.

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?

Answers

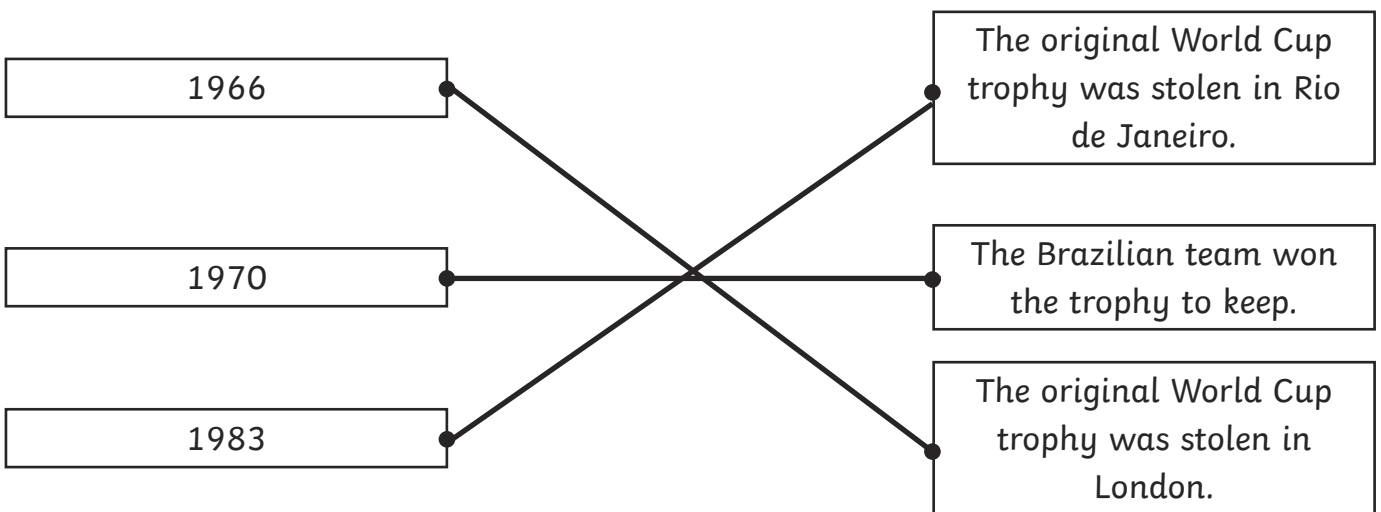
1. In which years did The World Cup not take place? Tick two.

- 1930
 1942
 1946
 2006

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

The World Cup was cancelled twice during the Second World War.

3. Match the dates to the events.



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

1. **Belgium**
2. **Panama**
3. **Tunisia**

5. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

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

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

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think they are some of the best players around the world because all countries want to be the World Cup champions so they will put their best players in the team in an effort to win the matches they play.

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

Pupils' own responses, such as: Pickles was the dog that discovered the hidden trophy, wrapped in newspaper. He would have been very famous at the time and something of a hero for finding the stolen trophy so his picture would have appeared in many newspapers at the time.

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

Pupils' own responses, such as: It is clear who the mascot is supporting because he is wearing the national colours of Russia. He will mainly support the home team because it is his country so he will want them to win.

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

Pupils' own responses, such as: The final tournament consists of 32 national teams with the host team (Russia) gaining an automatic place. A total of 64 matches will be played, by some of the world's best footballers, in 12 different stadiums across 11 cities.

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

Pupils' own responses, such as: By using stadiums that are close to Europe, it will make travel easier for the majority of fans who will want to attend matches to see their national team play.