

THE WORLD CUP

The World Cup is the greatest tournament in football. It started in 1930. Now, years later, it is the biggest tournament in sport.

In 2006, three billion people around the world watched the final between France and Italy. With each tournament more and more people watch the World Cup. It is very expensive for the host country to have the World Cup there. But the tournament brings lots of money and new jobs. In South Africa in 2010, there were over 400,000 new jobs because of the World Cup.



FIVE WORLD CUP STORIES

YEAR: 1930

HOST COUNTRY: Uruguay

Only thirteen teams played in the tournament because some European teams didn't want to go all the way to South America to play!

WINNERS: Uruguay

YEAR: 1950

HOST COUNTRY: Brazil

This was the only cup with no knockout tournament and so no final. When Uruguay won, Pelé's father Dondinho (and many other Brazilians) cried.

WINNERS: Uruguay

YEAR: 1966

HOST COUNTRY: England

Before the tournament, somebody took the trophy! The police looked everywhere. A dog found the trophy under a bush!

WINNERS: England



YEAR: 1986

HOST COUNTRY: Mexico

In a quarter-final game with England, Argentina's Diego Maradona famously scored a goal with his hand.

WINNERS: Argentina



YEAR: 2006

HOST COUNTRY: Germany

It was a sad end to the World Cup for France's great Zinedine Zidane. In the final, he fouled an Italian player with his head, and the referee sent off Zidane. At last, Italy won on penalties.

WINNERS: Italy

The biggest winners!

And the country with the most World Cup winning teams? Brazil, of course! They won in 1958, 1962, 1970, 1994 and 2002. No other country was in every World Cup tournament. And in 2014, Brazil is the host for the second time!



What do these words mean? You can use a dictionary.
billion host trophy bush quarter-final referee send off