

About the World Cup

This year's World Cup tournament is being held in Germany, beginning with two first-round matches on Friday 9 June 2006. The final will take place in Berlin on Sunday 9 July.

The World Cup is organised by FIFA (The World Federation of Football Associations, known by its French acronym). The first World Cup took place in Uruguay in 1930 and, apart from a break of 12 years (1938–50) owing to the Second World War, has taken place every four years ever since. The event has been held 11 times in Europe, four times in South America, twice in Central America, once in North America and once in Asia. It is now the most watched tournament in the world. In 1998, the tournament was shown on television in 200 countries, with 4 billion viewers from all around the world watching over the 33 days it lasted. 1.3 billion viewers watched the final match (more than one-sixth of the world's total population).

For a short time, an international community was formed, one which crossed ethnic, economic and religious boundaries. (FIFA itself now includes 204 member associations, making it one of the biggest and most popular sports federations in the world.)

Facts and figures

World Cup locations and winners 1930–2002

<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Winning team</i>
Korea/Japan	2002	Brazil
France	1998	France
United States	1994	Brazil
Italy	1990	Germany (Federal Republic)
Mexico	1986	Argentina
Spain	1982	Italy
Argentina	1978	Argentina
Germany	1974	Germany (Federal Republic)
Mexico	1970	Brazil
England	1966	England
Chile	1962	Brazil
Sweden	1958	Brazil
Switzerland	1954	Germany (Federal Republic)
Brazil	1950	Uruguay
France	1938	Italy
Italy	1934	Italy
Uruguay	1930	Uruguay

Teams in the 2006 FIFA World Cup

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F
Germany	England	Argentina	Mexico	Italy	Brazil
Costa Rica	Paraguay	Ivory Coast	Iran	Ghana	Croatia
Poland	Trinidad & Tobago	Serbia & Montenegro	Angola	USA	Australia
Ecuador	Sweden	Holland	Portugal	Czech Republic	Japan

Group G	Group H
France	Spain
Switzerland	Ukraine
South Korea	Tunisia
Togo	Saudi Arabia

[List of teams with map](#)

(Source of statistics: FIFA)