

Bring on the World

Day 1 Morning session: World Cup football... and the world

Activity 3: Country research (introduction)

Time required

This activity has been designed to be done over several sessions during the week:

Day 1 (morning, 1 hour; afternoon, 1 hour)

Day 2 (afternoon, 1 hour)

Day 3 (afternoon, 1 hour).

There are additional sessions for teachers planning not to do the five-a-side tournament:

Day 3 (afternoon, 1 hour)

Day 5 (afternoon, 1 hour).

The last session is meant for groups of pupils to present their research to the rest of the class.

Teachers should give pupils some guidance on how long they can spend planning, carrying out, collating and presenting this research, according to the time available.

The work produced by pupils as part of their country research can be displayed when they have done it or during the World Cup tournament itself, when interest in these countries will be at a premium.

You will need

- Globes and/or atlases
- Access to encyclopedias or reference books with information about the 16 countries listed below
- Internet access
- Blank world map (one per pair)
- Plain A4 paper

Some useful websites

www.encyclopedia.com An American site based on the Columbia Encyclopedia. Articles are quite short but a bit technical.

www.countryreports.org/ An American site, popular with schoolchildren, which contains information on every country in the world. Basic information is available at a glance, but users are asked to register if they want more details.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/country_profiles/default.stm A bit advanced for primary school children, but the maps and the 'facts' sections are useful.

Aims

- To develop enquiry skills (question-generating) and to identify different types of questions.
- To develop research skills (information-gathering).
- To develop teamwork skills.
- To foster respect for diversity.
- To develop presentation skills.

What to do

Divide the class into eight groups. Each group will do research and produce display work (such as a poster) on two of the countries playing in the World Cup finals. Name the groups (or 'teams') A to H, and allocate the countries as follows:

Group A	Costa Rica, Ecuador
Group B	Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago
Group C	Ivory Coast, Serbia and Montenegro
Group D	Mexico, Angola
Group E	Ghana, Czech Republic
Group F	Brazil, Croatia
Group G	South Korea, Togo
Group H	Ukraine, Saudi Arabia