



FIFA World Cup™



25 facts you may or may not know!



25 facts about the FIFA World Cup™

- 1 The FIFA World Cup™ trophy is a challenge cup that remains in the permanent possession of FIFA. Made of 18-carat gold for the 1974 tournament, it is 36.8cm high and weighs 6.175kg. The base has space for 17 inscriptions, which will suffice until the 2038 FIFA World Cup™. The winning association receives a replica until the next tournament but this is “only” gold-plated.
- 2 The first FIFA World Cup™ was held in three stadiums – including the purpose-built Centenario in Montevideo, Uruguay, in 1930. The highest number of stadiums used was in Spain in 1982: 14 cities and 17 stadiums. In 2002, when Korea Republic and Japan were co-hosts, they each provided ten stadiums in as many cities. Before Johannesburg, nine cities in five countries have had two stadiums on one city: Guadalajara, Mexico City, Monterrey, Barcelona, Madrid, Seville, Buenos Aires, London and Paris.
- 3 16 countries, including South Africa in 2010, have been one-time hosts of the FIFA World Cup™. Four countries, Mexico, Italy, France and Germany, have had the honour of doing so twice (Korea Republic and Japan co-hosted the 2002 edition). To date, ten competitions have been held in Europe, seven in the Americas and one in Asia.
- 4 The FIFA World Cup™ is by far the biggest TV sports event in the world today. In 2006, a cumulated audience of more than 26 billion viewers was recorded for the 64 matches. This compares to less than 5 billion viewers for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.
- 5 Today’s World Cup format has been in place since 1986. The tournaments in 1974, 1978 and 1982 (the first one with 24 teams) had another group stage in the second phase. The knockout system after the group stage (quarter-finals) was used from 1954 to 1970. In 1998, the tournament was expanded to 32 teams.
- 6 Telstar was the first official FIFA World Cup™ match ball. It was introduced in 1970 in Mexico, the first tournament ever to be broadcast live on television, as Telstar’s 32 black-and-white panels were more visible on black-and-white televisions. Telstar was used again in 1974. Match balls since then include Tango (1978, 1982), Azteca (1986), Etrusco (1990), Questra (1994), Tricolore (1998), Fevernova (2002), Teamgeist (2006), Jabulani (2010).
- 7 Almost 31 million fans have attended the 708 World Cup matches played since 1930, an average of 44,000 people per game.



- 8 The first World Cup mascot was introduced in 1966. "Willie" was a British lion wearing a Union Jack flag jersey sporting the words "WORLD CUP". The following three tournaments each had boys as mascots: Juanito (Mexico 1970); Tip&Tap (Germany 1974) and Gauchito (Argentina 1978). Spain's mascot in 1982 was Naranjito, an orange wearing Spain's team kit. Pique, the *jalapeño* pepper sporting a moustache and a sombrero, was Mexico's mascot in 1986. Italy 1990 saw the first inanimate mascot, called Ciao, a stick figure with a football for a head and an Italian tricolore body. Since then, there have always been animals: Striker the dog (USA 1994), Footix the chicken (France 1998), Goleo the lion (Germany 2006) and finally Zakumi the leopard (South Africa 2010). The exception was Korea and Japan in 2002, where the mascots were Ato, Kaz and Nik, three futuristic, computer-generated creatures.
- 9 In 1978, green-and-white striped shirts made a unique first and last appearance at a FIFA World Cup™ tournament. The French arrived at Mar del Plata to play Hungary without a change of strip. As both teams' kit was white, the French were forced to play their first round match in shirts borrowed from local team Atlético Kimberley, whose strip was of a quite original design at that time.
- 10 The five most frequent outcomes in international football account for 60% of all World Cup results:
 - Every third World Cup game has ended 1-0 (18%) or 2-1 (14%)
 - 10% of games have ended 2-0
 - Another 10% of games have ended 1-1
 - 8% of all matches played to date have ended 0-0
- 11 Two-time champions Uruguay play with four stars on their shirts: two for the World Cup wins of 1930 and 1950 and the other two in commemoration of their two Olympic triumphs of the 1920s. This shows the importance attached to the 1924 and 1928 Olympic Games Football Tournaments, both of which were great successes and encouraged FIFA to launch the FIFA World Cup™ in 1930.
- 12 Probably the most exotic team ever to play in the World Cup was the Dutch East Indies, who featured in France in 1938 without having to play in the preliminary competition. The first country to represent the Asian confederation, they were eliminated after just one game, a 6-0 thrashing at the hands of Hungary.
- 13 By the end of the 2010 edition, a total of 76 teams will have taken part in the World Cup finals. This includes teams who either no longer exist or have undergone a transformation. When the World Cup was expanded to 24 teams, five countries qualified for the finals for the first time. Since then, there have always been at least three or four new teams, including six in 2006. The 2010 FIFA World Cup™ will be an exception to the trend as Slovakia will be the only debutant.
- 14 The most successful teams are those which have been in the FIFA World Cup™ the highest number of times. Taking this into account, Brazil have featured in 19 World Cups, Italy and Germany in 17 and Argentina in 15.
- 15 Brazil are the most prolific team in World Cup history in terms of goals, having scored 201, followed by Germany (190), Italy (122) and Argentina (113). Aside from goalscoring, Brazil's World Cup track record is impressive: 19 tournaments, 5 titles, 92 games, 64 victories and 2.2 points per game.



- 16 With regard to African World Cup history, Egypt were the first African team to appear in the FIFA World Cup™, in 1934. They played just one match against Hungary and were eliminated. Morocco were the next African participants, in 1970. The first African win was in 1978 when Tunisia beat Mexico 3-1. In 1982, Cameroon were the first African team to be eliminated undefeated after three draws in 1982. In 1986, Morocco became the first African team to qualify for the second stage.
- 17 Austria's 7-5 win over Switzerland in 1954 still tops the list of the highest-scoring matches.
- 18 The three biggest margins of victories have been by nine goals. In 1954, the *Magical Magyars*, led by Puskás, defeated debutants Korea Republic 9 -0. In 1982, it was Hungary again who subjected El Salvador to a similar fate by beating them 10 -1. In 1974, Yugoslavia also triumphed 9-0 over Zaire.
- 19 2,063 goals have been scored in the 708 matches that have been played so far – an average of nearly three goals per game. The 1954 tournament in Switzerland had the highest average of goals scored – 5.4 per match. This is compared to 2.2 goals per match – the lowest ever – in Italy 1990.
- 20 Brazil's Ronaldo is not only the best ever World Cup marksman with 15 goals but also the player who has scored in the most number of matches, 11. He is followed by Germany's Jürgen Klinsmann, who scored his 11 goals in 10 different matches. The record for a single tournament is held by Frenchman Just Fontaine, who incredibly scored 13 times in 1958. Sandor Kocsis has the best goal scoring average, with 11 goals in five games.
- 21 Pelé is the only player with three World Cup wins to his name (1958, 1962 and 1970), although in 1962 he did miss most of the games through injury, including the final. His compatriot Cafu is the only player to have played in three consecutive finals (1994-2002).
- 22 The players with the most tournament appearances are Mexico's goalkeeping legend Antonio Carbajal (1950-66) and Germany's Lothar Matthäus (1982-98), who have both played five World Cups each. In terms of playing time, Paolo Maldini's 2,217 minutes in 23 matches for Italy at four World Cups is ahead of Matthäus, whose 25 matches in five World Cups remains unsurpassed.
- 23 Only two players have won a FIFA World Cup™ as both player and coach: Mario Zagallo triumphed as a player for Brazil (1958/62) and then as coach in 1970. Franz Beckenbauer achieved the same feat in 1974 and 1990. The *Kaiser* also featured on the losing side for Germany FR in the 1966 and 1986 finals as a player and coach respectively. Milorad Arsenijevic was the first person to appear in both roles – as player for Yugoslavia in 1930 and later as coach in 1950.
- 24 The Argentina-Mexico match in 1930 was officiated by a very unusual duo – the referee was Ulises Saucedo, Bolivia's manager and the linesman was Costel Rădulescu, coach of Romania.
- 25 A foreign coach has never managed a World Cup-winning team.