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[The 19th quadrennial FIFA World Cup tournament](#) with 32 teams from 6 continents starts June 11, 2010 with South Africa vs. Mexico in Johannesburg, South Africa

In August 2007 a [2 year qualification process](#) for the World Cup began. Two hundred four countries' national soccer teams (all-star teams) competed. After 848 matches 32 teams were left.

In December 2009 the 32 teams were randomly drawn into [eight four-team groups](#) by drawing from 4 pots: Pot 1 consisted of South Africa and the top 7 seeds (Brazil, Spain, Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Argentina, and England) based on the [FIFA World rankings](#) on October 2009. Pot 2 was composed of teams from Asia, Oceania, and North and Central America and the Caribbean. Pot 3 included teams from Africa and South America. Pot 4 had the remaining European teams. In the draw geographical criteria were respected, meaning that no two teams from the same confederation were drawn in the same group (except European teams, where a maximum of two will be in a group); i.e., South Africa cannot play the African teams from Pot 3 and Argentina and Brazil cannot be drawn against the three remaining South American teams. Each team will play the other three teams in their group.

A win is worth three points, a draw is worth 1 and you get no points for a loss.

The two teams in each group with the most points after the three matches advance. The other two are eliminated.

After narrowing the field down to 16, the tournament switches to a [knockout format](#).

The [eight group winners play the runners-up from another group](#) and teams keep playing until there is one winner. There can't be any ties in the knockout phase, so if the match is knotted up after 90 minutes, they'll play two 15 minute periods of extra time. If the teams are still tied, they'll move on to penalty kicks.

The number of places allotted to each continent is based on the strength of each continent's teams

[Europe \(53 teams 13 places\)](#) -- 3 points for a win, 1 for a draw, 0 for a loss

1. [Spain](#) (30 points)
2. [England](#) (27)
3. [Germany](#) (26)
4. [Netherlands](#) (24 but played 2 less games than every one else in Europe)
5. [Italy](#) (24)
6. [Slovakia](#) (22)
7. [Serbia](#) (22)
8. [Denmark](#) (21)
9. [Switzerland](#) (21)
10. [France](#) (21)
11. [Greece](#) (20)
12. [Slovenia](#) (20)
13. [Portugal](#) (19)

[South America \(10 teams 5 places\)](#)

1. [Brazil](#) (34)
2. [Chile](#) (33)
3. [Paraguay](#) (33)
4. [Argentina](#) (28)
5. [Uruguay](#) (24)

[Africa \(53 teams 5 places plus South Africa\)](#)

1. [Ivory Coast](#) (16 points)
2. [Cameroon](#) (13)
3. [Ghana](#) (13)
4. [Algeria](#) (13)

5. [Nigeria](#) (12)
6. [South Africa](#) (automatic bid as host country)

• [Asia \(43 teams 4 places\)](#)

1. [Australia](#) (20 points)
2. [South Korea](#) (16)
3. [Japan](#) (15)
4. [North Korea](#) (12)

• [North America, Central America & Caribbean \(Concacaf\) \(35 teams 3 places\)](#)

1. [USA](#) (20)
2. [Mexico](#) (19)
3. [Honduras](#) (16)

• [Oceania \(10 teams 1 place\)](#)

1. [New Zealand](#) (15)

-\$420 million tournament prize money

- group stage- \$8 million per team
- round of 16- \$9 million/team
- Quarter-finals- \$18 million/team
- Semi-finals- \$20 million/team
- Runners up- \$24 million/team
- Winners- \$30 million/team

The complete schedule for the 2010 World Cup (all times Eastern time):

**Friday, June 11**

Group A – (Johannesburg) South Africa vs. Mexico, 10 a.m.

Group A – (Cape Town) Uruguay vs. France, 2:30 p.m.

**Saturday, June 12**

Group B – (Port Elizabeth) Argentina vs. Nigeria, 7:30 a.m.

Group B - (Johannesburg) Korea Republic vs. Greece, 10 a.m.

Group C – (Rustenburg) United States vs. England, 2:30 p.m.

## **Sunday, June 13**

Group C – (Polokwane) Algeria vs. Slovenia, 7:30 a.m.

Group D – (Pretoria) Serbia vs. Ghana, 10 a.m.

Group D – (Durban) Germany vs. Australia, 2:30 p.m.

## **Monday, June 14**

Group E – (Johannesburg) Netherlands vs. Denmark, 7:30 a.m.

Group E – (Bloemfontein) Japan vs. Cameroon, 10 a.m.

Group F – (Durban) Italy vs. Paraguay, 2:30 p.m.

## **Tuesday, June 15**

Group F – (Rustenburg) New Zealand vs. Slovakia, 7:30 a.m.

Group G – (Port Elizabeth) Ivory Coast vs. Portugal, 10 a.m.

Group G – (Johannesburg) Brazil vs. Korea DPR, 2:30 p.m.

## **Wednesday, June 16**

Group H – (Nelspruit) Honduras vs. Chile, 7:30 a.m.

Group H – (Port Elizabeth) Spain vs. Switzerland, 10 a.m.

Group A – (Pretoria) South Africa vs. Uruguay, 2:30 p.m.

## **Thursday, June 17**

Group B – (Johannesburg) Argentina vs. Korea Republic, 7:30 a.m.

Group B – (Bloemfontein) Greece vs. Nigeria, 10 a.m.

Group A – (Polokwane) Mexico vs. France, 2:30 p.m.

## **Friday, June 18**

Group D – (Port Elizabeth) Germany vs. Serbia, 7:30 a.m.

Group C – (Johannesburg) Slovenia vs. United States, 10 a.m.

Group C – (Cape Town) England vs. Algeria, 2:30 p.m.

## **Saturday, June 19**

Group E – (Durban) Netherlands vs. Japan, 7:30 a.m.  
Group D – (Rustenburg) Ghana vs. Australia, 10 a.m.  
Group E – (Pretoria) Cameroon vs. Denmark, 2:30 p.m.

### **Sunday, June 20**

Group F – (Bloemfontein) Slovakia vs. Paraguay, 7:30 a.m.  
Group F – (Nelspruit) Italy vs. New Zealand, 10 a.m.  
Group G – (Johannesburg) Brazil vs. Ivory Coast, 2:30 p.m.

### **Monday, June 21**

Group G – (Cape Town) Portugal vs. Korea DPR, 7:30 a.m.  
Group H – (Port Elizabeth) Chile vs. Switzerland, 10 a.m.  
Group H – (Johannesburg) Spain vs. Honduras, 2:30 p.m.

### **Tuesday, June 22**

Group A – (Rustenburg) Mexico vs. Uruguay, 10 a.m.  
Group A – (Bloemfontein) France vs. South Africa, 10 a.m.  
Group B – (Durban) Nigeria vs. Korea Republic, 2:30 p.m.  
Group B – (Polokwane) Greece vs. Argentina, 2:30 p.m.

### **Wednesday, June 23**

Group C – (Port Elizabeth) Slovenia vs. England, 10 a.m.  
Group C – (Pretoria) United States vs. Algeria, 10 a.m.  
Group D – (Johannesburg) Ghana vs. Germany, 2:30 p.m.  
Group D – (Nelspruit) Australia vs. Serbia, 2:30 p.m.

### **Thursday, June 24**

Group F – (Johannesburg) Slovakia vs. Italy, 10 a.m.  
Group F – (Polokwane) Paraguay vs. New Zealand, 10 a.m.  
Group E – (Rustenburg) Denmark vs. Japan, 2:30 p.m.  
Group E – (Cape Town) Cameroon vs. Netherlands, 2:30 p.m.

### **Friday, June 25**

Group G – (Durban) Portugal vs. Brazil, 10 a.m.  
Group G – (Nelspruit) Korea DPR vs. Ivory Coast, 10 a.m.

Group H – (Pretoria) Chile vs. Spain, 2:30 p.m.

Group H – (Bloemfontein) Switzerland vs. Honduras, 2:30 p.m.

### **Saturday, June 26**

Round of 16 – (Port Elizabeth) Group A Winner vs. Group B Runner-Up, 10 a.m.

Round of 16 – (Rustenburg) Group C Winner vs. Group D Runner-Up, 2:30 p.m.

### **Sunday, June 27**

Round of 16 – (Bloemfontein) Group D Winner vs. Group C Runner-Up, 10 a.m.

Round of 16 – (Johannesburg) Group B Winner vs. Group A Runner-Up, 2:30 p.m.

### **Monday, June 28**

Round of 16 – (Durban) Group E Winner vs. Group F Runner-Up, 10 a.m.

Round of 16 – (Johannesburg) Group G Winner vs. Group H Runner-Up, 2:30 p.m.

### **Tuesday, June 29**

Round of 16 – (Pretoria) Group F Winner vs. Group E Runner-Up, 10 a.m.

Round of 16 – (Cape Town) Group H Winner vs. Group G Runner-Up, 2:30 p.m.

### **Friday, July 2**

Quarterfinal, Game 57 - (Port Elizabeth) E1/F2 Winner vs. G1/H2 Winner, 10 a.m.

Quarterfinal, Game 58 - (Johannesburg) A1/B2 Winner vs. C1/D2, 2:30 p.m.

### **Saturday, July 3**

Quarterfinal, Game 59 - (Cape Town) B1/A2 Winner vs. D1/C2 Winner, 10 a.m.

Quarterfinal, Game 60 - (Johannesburg) F1/E2 Winner vs. H1/G2, 2:30 p.m.

### **Tuesday, July 6**

Semifinal, Game 61 - (Cape Town) Game 57 Winner vs. Game 58 Winner, 2:30 p.m.

### **Wednesday, July 7**

Semifinal, Game 62 - (Durban) Game 59 Winner vs. Game 60 Winner, 2:30 p.m.

### **Saturday, July 10**

Third-Place Game - (Port Elizabeth) Game 61 Loser vs. Game 62 Loser, 2:30 p.m.

### **Sunday, July 11**

Final - (Johannesburg) Game 61 Winner vs. Game 62 Winner, 2:30 p.m.

### **Glossary**

**Pitch** – Place where the game is played. You might call it a field

**Box** – The rectangle 18 yards from the goal line where the goalie stands, and the area in which he's allowed to use his hands

**Yellow card** – A warning from the referee to a player for misconduct

**Red card** – An act of violent conduct – or a second yellow card – that results in the offending player being sent off the field. He can not be replaced, and thus his team must play with 10 men, better known as being “a man down.”

**Flop or dive** – When a player falls to the ground as if he's been horribly injured when, in fact, he was just trying to get a free kick from the referee.

**Offside rule** - OK, it's like this. In order to receive a pass in the opponent's half of the field, there must be two players between the guy receiving the pass and the goal. One of those is almost always going to be the goal keeper. This rule does not apply on passes to players running behind the ball.

**Own goal** - When a player kicks or heads the ball into his own net

**Corner kick** – If a team kicks or heads the ball over the line behind their own goal, the opposing team gets to put the ball down at the corner flag and knock it into the box.

**Direct free kick** - is a method of restarting play in a game of association football following a penalty foul (e.g. dangerous play). Unlike an indirect free kick, a goal may be scored directly against the opposing side without the ball having first touched another player.

**Indirect free kick** - is awarded to the opposing team when a player commits a foul other than a penalty foul. Unlike a direct free kick, a goal may not be scored directly from the kick. An indirect free kick is also awarded to the opposing team when play is stopped to caution or send-off a player when no specific foul has occurred. The most common cause is the offside offence.

**Penalty kick (or penalty)** - is a type of free kick in association football, taken from twelve yards out from goal and with only the goalkeeper of the defending team between the penalty taker and the goal. It is awarded to the fouled team following a foul usually punishable by a direct free kick but that has occurred within their opponent's penalty area.

**Penalty Area (the box)** - The marked area around each goal, measuring 18x44 yards, within which the defending keeper has the privilege of handling the ball, and inside which a penal foul by the defensive team will result in a penalty kick. (colloquially also known as the 18-yard box, penalty box or simply the box)

**Touch Line** - The boundary lines marking each sideline of the field.

**Goal kick** - A goal kick is awarded to the defending team when the ball leaves the field of play by crossing the goal line (either on the ground or in the air) without a goal having been scored, having been last touched by an attacking player. The ball is initially placed anywhere within the defending goal area. All opposing players must be outside the penalty area until the ball is in play.

**Penalty fouls -**

1. Kicking at an opponent, not the ball. Contact does not have to be made.
2. Tripping an opponent. The player does not have to fall down.
3. Jumping at an opponent. Contact does not have to be made.
4. Charging an opponent violently or from behind.
5. Striking (hitting) or attempting to strike an opponent.
6. Pushing an opponent.
7. When tackling, contacting the opponent before touching the ball.
8. Holding an opponent.
9. Spitting at an opponent (red card offense).
10. Handling the ball deliberately (except the keeper within the keepers own penalty area).

**Non-Penal (minor) fouls -**

1. Dangerous Play: A player does something to endanger himself or others. Most common are high kicks when another players head is near, or low headers near



other players feet.

2. Impeding the progress of an opponent when not within playing distance of the ball. This used to be called obstruction.

3. Obstructing the Goalkeeper.

**Confederation** - the groups or zones for world cup qualifying created by FIFA. They are [CONCACAF](#) (North American, Central America and the Caribbean), [CONMEBOL](#) (South America), [CAF](#) (Africa), [AFC](#) (Asia and Australia), [Oceania](#) (New Zealand and other island Pacific nations) and [UEFA](#) (Europe).

**Friendlies** - A soccer match between two countries' national teams that is more for practice and testing out players, It does not count for World Cup qualification.

[Soccer history link](#)

[History of FIFA World Cup link](#)





















[The Top 50 players in the World Cup Link](#)

[Soccer popularity worldwide map link](#)

-Most successful teams:

Only seven nations have ever won the World Cup. They are Brazil (5), Italy (4, including the last one in 2006), Germany (3), Argentina (2), Uruguay (2), France (1) and England (1).

Team	Titles	Runners-up	Third place	Fourth place
 <a href="#">Brazil</a>	5 ( <a href="#">1958</a> , <a href="#">1962</a> , <a href="#">1970</a> , <a href="#">1994</a> , <a href="#">2002</a> )	2 ( <a href="#">1950*</a> , <a href="#">1998</a> )	2 ( <a href="#">1938</a> , <a href="#">1978</a> )	1 ( <a href="#">1974</a> )
 <a href="#">Italy</a>	4 ( <a href="#">1934*</a> , <a href="#">1938</a> , <a href="#">1982</a> , <a href="#">2006</a> )	2 ( <a href="#">1970</a> , <a href="#">1994</a> )	1 ( <a href="#">1990*</a> )	1 ( <a href="#">1978</a> )
 <a href="#">Germany</a> <sup>^</sup>	3 ( <a href="#">1954</a> , <a href="#">1974*</a> , <a href="#">1990</a> )	4 ( <a href="#">1966</a> , <a href="#">1982</a> , <a href="#">1986</a> , <a href="#">2002</a> )	3 ( <a href="#">1934</a> , <a href="#">1970</a> , <a href="#">2006*</a> )	1 ( <a href="#">1958</a> )
 <a href="#">Argentina</a>	2 ( <a href="#">1978*</a> , <a href="#">1986</a> )	2 ( <a href="#">1930</a> , <a href="#">1990</a> )	—	—

 Uruguay	2 ( <a href="#">1930*</a> , <a href="#">1950</a> )	—	—	2 ( <a href="#">1954</a> , <a href="#">1970</a> )
 France	1 ( <a href="#">1998*</a> )	1 ( <a href="#">2006</a> )	2 ( <a href="#">1958</a> , <a href="#">1986</a> )	1 ( <a href="#">1982</a> )
 England	1 ( <a href="#">1966*</a> )	—	—	1 ( <a href="#">1990</a> )
 Netherlands	—	2 ( <a href="#">1974</a> , <a href="#">1978</a> )	—	1 ( <a href="#">1998</a> )
 Czechoslovakia#	—	2 ( <a href="#">1934</a> , <a href="#">1962</a> )	—	—
 Hungary	—	2 ( <a href="#">1938</a> , <a href="#">1954</a> )	—	—
 Sweden	—	1 ( <a href="#">1958*</a> )	2 ( <a href="#">1950</a> , <a href="#">1994</a> )	1 ( <a href="#">1938</a> )
 Poland	—	—	2 ( <a href="#">1974</a> , <a href="#">1982</a> )	—
 Austria	—	—	1 ( <a href="#">1954</a> )	1 ( <a href="#">1934</a> )
 Portugal	—	—	1 ( <a href="#">1966</a> )	1 ( <a href="#">2006</a> )
 United States	—	—	1 ( <a href="#">1930</a> )	—
 Chile	—	—	1 ( <a href="#">1962*</a> )	—
 Croatia	—	—	1 ( <a href="#">1998</a> )	—
 Turkey	—	—	1 ( <a href="#">2002</a> )	—
 Yugoslavia#	—	—	—	2 ( <a href="#">1930</a> , <a href="#">1962</a> )
 Spain	—	—	—	1 ( <a href="#">1950</a> )
 Soviet Union#	—	—	—	1 ( <a href="#">1966</a> )
 Belgium	—	—	—	1 ( <a href="#">1986</a> )
 Bulgaria	—	—	—	1 ( <a href="#">1994</a> )
 Korea Republic	—	—	—	1 ( <a href="#">2002*</a> )

\* = hosts

The match ball for the 2010 FIFA World Cup will be named the "[Jabulani](#)", made by Adidas, which means "bringing joy to everyone" in Zulu; it features eleven colors, one for each player on the pitch, it retails for \$150.



The official mascot for the 2010 FIFA World Cup is [Zakumi](#), an [anthropomorphised](#) leopard with green hair. His name comes from "ZA", the international abbreviation for South Africa, and "kumi", a word that means "ten" in various African languages. The mascot's colors reflect those of the host nation's playing strip – yellow and green.



[The FIFA World Cup Trophy](#) is a 15 inch tall 14 pound 18 carat solid gold trophy. Winners of the tournament receive a gold plated replica of the original. The sculpture depicts two human figures holding up the Earth. Its “melt” value is about 150 thousand dollars.



Venues:



### **Johannesburg**

**Name** Soccer City Stadium (FNB Stadium)

**Year completed** 1989

**Cost** US\$310,000,000

**Capacity** 94,700

**Home to** Kaizer Chiefs (football)

**Trivia** The outside of the stadium is designed to have the appearance of a calabash, an African pot

[File:Soccer City stadium.jpg](#)



### **Durban**

**Name** Moses Mabhida Stadium

**Year completed** 2009

**Cost** US\$200,000,000

**Capacity** 70,000 (54,000 post-tournament)

**Trivia** The stadium is built on the site of the old Kings Park Soccer Stadium, which was demolished in 2006 using 126kg of explosives. The multi-purpose venue includes an indoor arena, football museum, sports institute and a transport hub

[File:Moses Mabhida World Cup Stadium.jpg](#)



## **Cape Town**

**Name** Cape Town Stadium

**Year completed** 2009

**Cost** US\$330,000,000

**Capacity** 68,000

**Trivia** During the planning stage, it was referred to by some as the African Renaissance Stadium and was then called the Green Point Stadium. The 37,000 sq m roof weighs 4,500 tons

[File:cape town stadium.JPG](#)



## **Johannesburg**

**Name** Ellis Park (Coca-Cola Park)

**Year completed** 1928 (rebuilt in 1982)

**Cost** US\$63,000,000 (renovations)

**Capacity** 62,567

**Home to** Orlando Pirates (football), Lions (rugby)

**Trivia** In 1955, over 100,000 watched the rugby match between South Africa and British Lions and, in 2005, it became the first black-owned stadium in the country

[File:Ellis Park Stadium.jpg](#)



## **Pretoria**

**Name** Loftus Versfeld Stadium

**Year completed** 1906 (renovated 2008-09)

**Cost** US\$12,000,000 (estimated)

**Capacity** 50,000

**Home to** Blue Bulls (rugby), Mamelodi Sundowns, SuperSport United (football)

**Trivia** The stadium hosted matches during the 1995 Rugby World Cup. The first stand, accommodating 2,000 spectators, was erected in 1923

[File:Loftus Versfeld Stadium.jpg](#)



## **Port Elizabeth**

**Name** Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium

**Year completed** 2009

**Cost** US\$150,000,000

**Capacity** 48,000

**Home to** Bay United, Southern Kings

**Trivia** The capacity will reduce to 44,000 after the tournament when temporary seating is removed. The first international game staged at the ground was a rugby match between Southern Kings and the British & Irish Lions in June 2009

[File:Nelson Mandela Stadium.jpg](#)



## **Bloemfontein**

**Name** Free State Stadium

**Year completed** 1952

**Cost** US\$33,000,000 (upgrade)

**Capacity** 45,000

**Home to** Central Cheetahs, Free State Cheetahs (rugby), Bloemfontein Celtic (football)

**Trivia** Building work was dogged by a series of strikes, the longest of which lasted a fortnight. It is also known as Vodacom Park

**[File: Bloemfontein-Free State Stadium.jpg](#)**



## **Polokwane**

**Name** Peter Mokaba Stadium

**Year completed** 2010

**Cost** US\$154,000,000

**Capacity** 46,000

**Trivia** The design is inspired by the iconic [Baobab tree](#). The stadium will house 5,000 VIPs

**[File: Estadio Peter Mokaba.JPG](#)**





## **Nelspruit**

**Name** Mbombela Stadium

**Year completed** 2009

**Cost** US\$145,000,000

**Capacity** 46,000

**Trivia** Work was delayed on the project as the land used was occupied by a school that had to be relocated first. The stadium has 1,030 toilets. Spectators at the front of the stands will be closer to the pitch than anywhere else at the tournament

[File:Mbombela Stadium.jpg](#)



## **Rustenburg**

**Name** Royal Bafokeng Stadium

**Year completed** 1999

**Cost** US\$48,000,000 (renovation)

**Capacity** 42,000

**Home to** Platinum Stars (football)

**Trivia** The original construction was completely funded by the Royal Bafokeng community, who in 1999 won the legal right to 20% of the income from platinum mined on their land

[File:Royal Bafokeng Stadium.jpg](#)

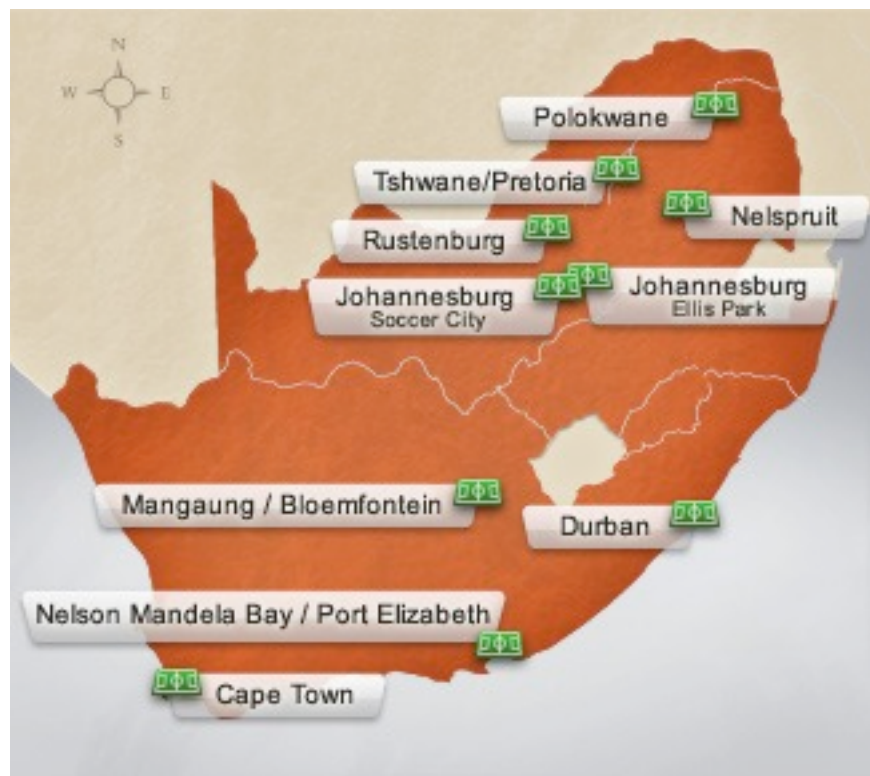
Dark blue countries made the 2010 world cup final  
Light blue countries tried to qualify but failed  
Grey countries did not participate



Africa:



South Africa with stadium/city venues:



[Participants](#) and [rankings](#):

[Group A](#):

85. [South Africa](#) - Bafana Bafana (The Boys)

2 time cup participant, automatic qualifier as the host, many believe South Africa will be the first host nation to fail to advance out of the group stage

17. [Mexico](#) - El Tri (The Tri-colors)

13 time cup participant, hosted cup twice, best finish final 8 twice as hosts, reached the final 16 the past 4 cups, Eight time

[Concacaf Confederation Cup](#) Champion most recently in 09

20. [Uruguay](#) - La Celeste (The Sky Blue), [Los Charrúas](#)

10 time cup participant, hosted the very first world cup in 1930 which it won, won a second crown in 1950 in Brazil

7. [France](#) - Les Bleus (The Blues), L'Equipe tricolore (The Tri-color Team)  
12 time cup participant, hosted and won the cup in 1998, finalist in '06  
losing to host Germany, 3rd place in '58 & '86, 4th place in '82

#### Group B:

8. [Argentina](#) - La Albiceleste (White and Sky blue)  
14 cup appearances, 2 time champion '78 as host and '86, 2 time runner  
up ('30 & '90), 3 final 8 appearances including the most recent cup in '06,  
the consensus best player in the world plays for Argentina [Lionel Messi](#) of  
the [Spanish Premier League](#) team [FC Barcelona](#)

22. [Nigeria](#) - Super Eagles  
3 time cup qualifier, reached final 16 of the cup twice, U-17 world cup  
winners in 85, 93 and 07, Olympic champions in 96,

52. [South Korea](#) - Taeguk Warriors, Red Devils, Tigers of Asia  
7 time cup participant, best finish 4th place in 2002 as co-host with Japan,

13. [Greece](#)  
1st and only previous appearance in the world cup in 94 hosted in the  
US, won the [UEFA European championship](#) in 2004

#### Group C:

9. [England](#) - [The Three Lions](#)  
12 time participant, Cup Champion in 66 as host, 4th place in 90, 6  
appearances in the final 8, in [Wayne Rooney](#) of [Manchester United](#) of the  
[English Premiere League](#) they have one of the best strikers in the world

14. [USA](#) - The Yanks, The Stars and Stripes  
8 time participant, 3rd place in 1930, final 8 in 02, round of 16 in 94 as  
host, 4 time champion of the biannual [Concacaf \(North America\) Gold Cup](#)

- 91, 02, 05, 07, Runner-up at 2009 [Confederations Cup](#) (first final appearance in a major international competition), midfielder [Landon Donovan](#) is the star of the USA team

26. [Algeria](#) - Les Fennecs (the Desert Foxes)

2 time participant never reached beyond the group stage, last appearance in the cup was 24 years ago, [African Cup](#) champion in 90

31. [Slovenia](#)

making their 2nd appearance in the world cup, gained independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, nation of 2 million people

[Group D:](#)

6. [Germany](#) - Die Mannschaft (The Team), The DFB-Eleven

3 time cup champion 54, 74, 90, (only better records are Brazil 5 titles and Italy with 4), sixteen cup appearances, four runners-up, three 3rd places,

21. [Australia](#) - The Socceroos

32 year Cup absence until 06 when they reached the final 16, Australian national team record set during 2010 qualification with 7 straight shut-outs

19. [Serbia](#) - Bell Orlovi (White Eagles)

9 time cup participant, 4th place in 62, three final 8 appearances, first appearance at the cup as an independent nation, formerly part of Yugoslavia then Serbia Montenegro

34. [Ghana](#) - The Black Stars

making 2nd appearance in the Cup, previous appearance in 06 reached the round of 16, four [African Cup](#) titles, though none since 1982, two FIFA U-17 World Cups, and the first African team to lift the FIFA U-20 World Cup when they beat Brazil on penalties in October 2009.

### Group E:

3. [Netherlands](#) - The Oranje, [Total Football](#)

8 cup appearances, 2nd place in 74 & 78, 4th in 98, UEFA European Cup Champion in 88,

28. [Denmark](#) - Danish Dynamite

3 time cup participant, final 8 in 98, round of 16 in 86 & 02,  
[UEFA European Champions](#) in 92 and  
[International Confederations Champion](#) 95

43. [Japan](#) - Samurai Blue

2010 is their 4th appearance in a row at the cup, best finish was reaching round of 16 as co-hosts in 2002

11. [Cameroon](#) - The Indomitable Lions

highest ranked African team in the Cup, 5 Cup appearances, final 8 in 90  
4 time [African Cup](#) Champion

### Group F:

4. [Italy](#) - The Azzurri (The Blue)

4 time Cup Champion as well as most recent champion in 06, 2nd place twice in 70 & 94, third place in 90 as host, 16 cup appearances

29. [Paraguay](#) - [Los Guaranies](#), La Albirroja (white and red)

7 cup appearances 4th in a row in 2010 , reached round of 16 three times,  
Silver medalists at the 04 Olympics,

82. [New Zealand](#) - [The Kiwis](#), The All Whites

Making only their 2nd appearance at the World Cup, previous appearance was in 82

33. [Slovakia](#) - Repre

1st time cup appearance, 8 appearances as part of Czechoslovakia, 2nd place in 62 & 34, final 8 in 38 & 90

[Group G:](#)

2. [Brazil](#) - A Seleção (The Selection), Canarinho (Little Canary), Auriverde (Yellow and Green)

Has made all 18 world cups, 5 time champion, 2nd place twice, 3rd place twice, 4th place once, final 8 five times, has one of the best footballers in the world in [Kaka](#) who was sold to [Real Madrid](#) of the [Spanish Premiere League](#) for a [transfer fee](#) of \$95 million

86. [North Korea](#) - Chollima

1 time qualifier in 66 when they reached the final 8

16. [Ivory Coast](#) - Les Elephants

1 time cup appearance in 06, African Cup champions 92 and runners up in 2006, has one of the best forwards in the world in [Didier Drogba](#) of the [English Premier League](#) team [Chelsea](#)

5. [Portugal](#) - A Selecção das Quinas

4 cup appearances, 2 time semi-finalist finishing third in 66 and 4th in 06, has one of the best-known and most creative players in the game in [Cristiano Ronaldo](#) of the [Spanish Premiere League](#) team [Real Madrid](#)

[Group H:](#)

1. [Spain](#) - La Roja (The Red), La Seleccion

12 time cup participant, final 8 five times, 4th place in '50, [Current European Champion](#) winning in 08, and previous European champ in 64



18. [Switzerland](#) - Schweizer Nati

8 time cup participant, final 8 three times in 34, 38 and 54, reached round of 16 in 06

37. [Honduras](#) - [Los Catrachos](#), La Bicolor

2nd appearance in the Cup previously qualifying in 82,

15. [Chile](#) - La Roja (The Red)

7 time cup participant, 3rd place finish in 62 as hosts, made the final 16 in 06

-The cumulative audience of all 64 matches of the 2006 World Cup was 26 billion  
-715 million watched the 2006 World Cup final (a ninth of the entire population of the planet).

-200 million watched the 2010 World Cup group draw on December 4, 2009

-No team outside the European or South American Confederations has ever made the tournament final

-\$6 billion spent on South African stadiums, transportation and other infrastructure in preparation for the World Cup

-Most Popular Sports:

1) Football: 3.3-3.5 billion fans (Europe, Africa, Asia, Americas, etc.)

2) Cricket: 2-3 billion fans (India, UK, Pakistan, Asia, Australia, etc.)

3) Field hockey: 2-2.2 billion fans (Asia, Europe, Africa, Australia)

4) Tennis: Around 1 billion fans (Europe, Americas, Asia)

5) Volleyball: Around 900 million fans (Asia, Europe, Americas, Australia)

6) Table tennis: Around 900 million fans (Asia, Europe, Africa, Americas)

7) Baseball: Around 500 million fans (US, Japan, Cuba, Dominican Republic)

8) Golf: Around 400 million fans (US, Canada, Europe)

9) Gridiron (American football): 390-410 million fans (US mainly)

10) Basketball: Not more than 400 million fans (US, Canada mainly)