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Together

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WELCOME TO QATAR!

On 21 November, fans from all around the world will have their eyes fixed on the beautiful Middle Eastern country of Qatar. This is the date when the FIFA World Cup 2022™ kicks off. It promises to be a fantastic festival of football – with the planet's premier male players and teams involved, you will be treated to a sporting spectacle that will live long in the memory.

▶ France players celebrate being crowned champions at Russia 2018.

Kick off with your *Kids' Handbook*

The FIFA World Cup 2022 will be the best yet – and your *Kids' Handbook* is the perfect guide to steer you through it. From the tournament's top teams and stars to fun facts, stats, trivia, puzzles and even six pages of results charts to fill in, it is the ultimate way to get ready for kick-off and to enjoy every minute of the action.

Diary dates

The first of the 64 games will kick off on 21 November, with Senegal taking on the Netherlands at Al Thumama Stadium. There will be four group games each day over the first 12 days, before the dramatic knockout matches begin on 3 December. The FIFA World Cup final will be staged on 18 December and watched by hundreds of millions of people around the globe.

▲ Argentina's Lionel Messi in full flow against Uruguay in a FIFA World Cup qualifier in November 2021.

Reigning champions

France are the current FIFA World Cup champions. Coached by Didier Deschamps, *Les Bleus* were in fine form at Russia 2018 and beat Croatia 4-2 in an amazing final. It was the second time that France had lifted the World Cup Trophy after success in 1998 on home soil. After an impressive qualifying campaign to reach Qatar, the French will be a fearsome force once again.

FANTASTIC FINALS

The qualifying games for the FIFA World Cup 2022 began way back in June 2019. Only hosts Qatar qualified automatically, meaning famous football nations such as Brazil, Argentina, England and holders France had to win their place in the finals. Now that the tournament is approaching, the atmosphere and excitement are building all the time.

Which countries are involved?

There will be 32 teams playing in Qatar. Look out for the legendary yellow-and-green shirts of the *Samba Boys* from Brazil – after all, they have won the World Cup a record five times. Belgium, Germany, Spain, Croatia and the Netherlands all have squads full of youth, experience and – most importantly – goals!

Who is targeting the trophy?

Fans will be very surprised if one of the usual favourites – France, England, Argentina, Brazil, Belgium, Spain, Germany – does not go all the way. Four years ago in Russia, though, few expected Croatia to power their way to the final. Can Denmark, who were slick and stylish in qualifying and also shone at UEFA EURO 2020, spring a surprise?

Any prized players to pick out?

There will be so many superstars on show in Qatar. Belgium goal machine Romelu Lukaku could really impress, as could Germany's Serge Gnabry, Georginio Wijnaldum of the Netherlands and England's Harry Kane. Do not forget the wonderful skills of Lionel Messi and Neymar. Go to page 26 for a closer look at some more eye-catching players.

Po

▶ Belgium ace Romelu Lukaku shields the ball from England's Harry Maguire at Russia 2018.

Goal count

How many goals has Brazil hero Neymar scored at the FIFA World Cup finals?

?

we

The answer is at the back of the book.

TROPHY TIME

The golden reward for being crowned FIFA World Cup™ champions is lifting the most coveted trophy in the game. In the competition's 92-year history, just eight nations have had the honour of showing off the glitzy prize. When Hugo Lloris, the France captain, did so at Russia 2018, he achieved a dream of getting his hands on the FIFA World Cup Trophy. Read on to find out more about this prestigious prize.

▼ Germany's Lukas Podolski poses with the trophy after the team's victory over Argentina at Brazil 2014.

Seventies style

Created in 1973 and fast approaching its 50th birthday, the FIFA World Cup Trophy was first awarded to West Germany in 1974. The trophy is 36.8cm tall and weighs a fraction over 6kg. While that makes it smaller than, say, the UEFA Champions League and the Premier League trophy in England, it is still the one award that all footballers crave.

Golden glory

Did you know that precisely 4,927g of the trophy is pure gold? As well as the precious metal, it has rings of malachite stones around the base. The trophy was carefully crafted in Milan, Italy, and was designed by Silvio Gazzaniga. It represents two athletes rising up and receiving the world at the moment of victory.

True or false?

Teams that win the FIFA World Cup get to keep a gold-plated replica of it.

Jules Rimet Trophy

The first FIFA World Cup Trophy was presented at the nine finals between 1930 and 1970. Named the Jules Rimet Trophy in honour of the Frenchman who helped set up FIFA and the FIFA World Cup, it was 35cm tall and weighed 3.8kg. It was awarded to Brazil permanently after they won it for the third time in 1970. Sadly, the trophy was stolen in 1983 and has never been seen again.

The answer is at the back of the book.

THE FINALS EXPLAINED

With all 32 teams ready for kick-off at the FIFA World Cup 2022, you now need to know how the finals will work and how the path to the final will unfold. Read on to find out.

Group stage

Just like for the last six instalments of the FIFA World Cup, the 32 nations have been drawn into eight groups of four teams. The groups are lettered A to H. Within every group, the teams all play each other once, meaning there are six matches in each group and 48 in total during the group stage. The countries finishing in the top two in their group advance to the round of 16.

Round of 16

This is where the drama goes up another level, because from here on in, it is all knockout action. Group winners take on runners-up from another group, with 30 minutes of extra time and even a penalty shoot-out being played if the scores are level after 90 minutes. Curiously, Mexico have reached but failed to get beyond this stage of the competition at each of the last seven editions.

Quarter-finals

The victorious teams from the eight round-of-16 ties earn a place in one of the four quarter-finals. These games will be played in Lusail, Al Rayyan, Al Khor and Doha. The most dramatic quarter-final at Russia 2018 was Croatia's penalty shoot-out win against the hosts.

Team tracker

Europe will have the most teams in Qatar – how many?

A 10 **B** 13 **C** 19

?

The answer is at the back of the book.

◀ **Belgium complete a stunning comeback to beat Japan 3-2 at Russia 2018.**

▲ **France's Olivier Giroud takes on Belgium's Vincent Kompany in the semi-final at Russia 2018.**

Semi-finals

There are now just four games left to play, including the third-place play-off between the two beaten semi-finalists. One glorious goal or costly mistake could be the difference between a team marching through to the final and the other being left holding their heads in their hands. Germany's 7-1 thumping of Brazil in 2014 remains the most stunning FIFA World Cup semi-final of all time!

Final

The 64th and final fixture at the FIFA World Cup 2022 will see the champions crowned. The final could be decided by a single goal, like in 2014, or a goalfest such as at Russia 2018. Qatar 2022 will feature at least 5,760 minutes of awesome action over 64 games and the eyes of the world will be on Lusail Stadium on 18 December.

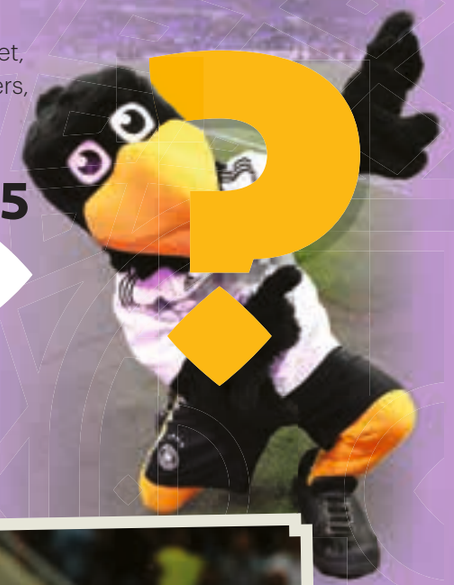
NUMBER CRUNCH QUIZ

Like a defender trying to help his team win, it is time to "tackle" these number-related quiz questions all about the FIFA World Cup!

Figure football

The numbers below represent the equivalent letter in the alphabet, so 1 = A, 2 = B, 3 = C all the way to 26 = Z. By looking at the numbers, work out the name of the country playing at Qatar 2022.

7 5 18 13 1 14 25



Portu-goal

In this picture of Portugal legend Cristiano Ronaldo acrobatically shooting at goal, which of the five balls shown is the real one?

Decide the digits

The answer to each of these questions has either a 2, 9, 0, 1 or 7 in it, or any combination of the numbers. Pick the digits you think are correct, and remember that they can be used more than once.

A: The year Spain won the FIFA World Cup:

B: The shirt number Brazil right-back Cafu wore at the 1998, 2002 and 2006 finals:

C: Cristiano Ronaldo loves wearing the No7 shirt, but how many FIFA World Cup finals goals has he scored?

D: Brazil and Germany share the record for having played the most FIFA World Cup finals games – how many?

Ten time

These superstars all like to wear the No10 shirt for their country, but can you work out the player from the clues below?

A: I look awesome in orange and joined Barcelona in 2021 having starred for Olympique Lyonnais.

THE PLAYER IS: M _ _ _ _ _ _ D _ _ _ _

B: I have played for Chelsea and Real Madrid and one of my younger brothers is also an international footballer.

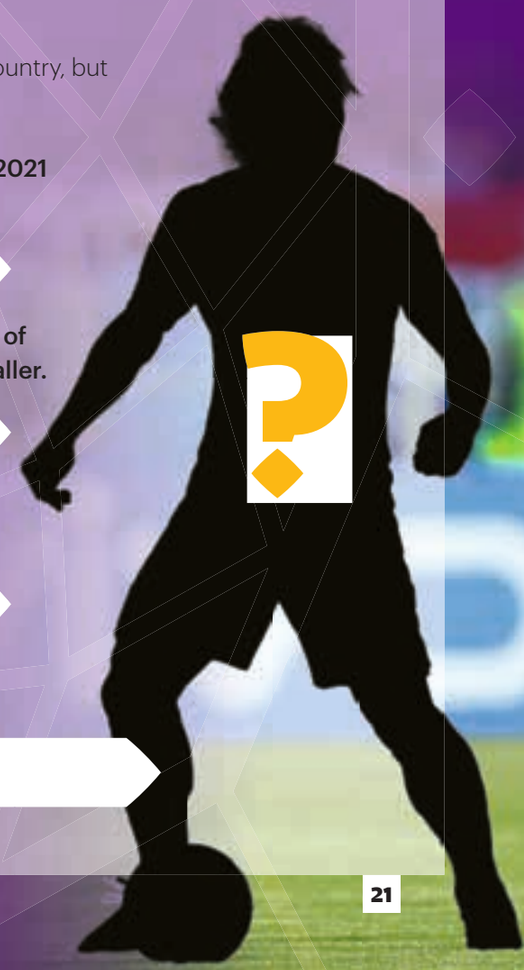
THE PLAYER IS: E _ _ _ H _ _ _ _ _

C: I am one of the finest footballers of all time and became a megastar during my years at Barcelona.

THE PLAYER IS: L _ _ _ _ _ M _ _ _ _

D: I have played in a FIFA World Cup final and I will be 37 years old when Qatar 2022 kicks off.

THE PLAYER IS: L _ _ _ M _ _ _ _ _



The answers are at the back of the book.