

# PLANET FOOTBALL

Uniting the world through sport



## Introduction

The 2006 FIFA World Cup™ takes place in Germany from June 9 to July 9, 2006. The opening game will be held in Munich's new FIFA World Cup Stadium, Munich, with the final taking place in Berlin's Olympic stadium. The FIFA World Cup™ (often called the Football World Cup, Soccer World Cup or simply the World Cup) is the most important competition in international football (soccer), and the world's most representative team sport event. Organised by Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the sport's governing body, the FIFA World Cup is contested by the men's national football teams of FIFA member nations. The championship has been awarded every four years since the first tournament in 1930 (except in 1942 and 1946 due to World War II).

While we will be looking at the game of football (soccer) in this unit, the key focus is to conceive the game as one that unites a diverse mix of cultures. Regardless of age, origin or social position, people all over the world are fascinated by football.

## Curriculum focus

**PDHPE:** Games and Sports

**HSIE:** Cultures — Diversity and Unity

**Science and Technology:** Information and Communication

**Mathematics:** Tallying, Graphing

**English:** Research, Presenting

## Learning outcomes

Students will be able to:

- identify shared customs, practices, symbols, languages and traditions of their culture and other cultures
- describe similarities and differences between communities in Australia and other countries
- describe different cultures
- explain the rationale for particular strategies and rules in team sports
- participate in a modified version of football (soccer).

## Useful web links

[www.FIFAworldcup.com](http://www.FIFAworldcup.com)

[www.footballaustralia.com.au](http://www.footballaustralia.com.au)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_national\\_football\\_teams](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_national_football_teams)

[www.footballaustralia.com.au](http://www.footballaustralia.com.au)

## Home research activity: FIFA World Cup™ @

Download from the Teachers' Toolkit website the 'Home Research Activity'. Have students research the questions as a homework activity in preparation for reporting back during a classroom discussion.

## Discussion questions:

- Name the countries involved in the 2006 FIFA World Cup™.
- Establish students' understanding of the game of football. Direct the discussion to include the number of players and known on-field positions, basic rules, shape of the pitch, how points are scored, what the red and yellow cards mean, etc.
- Can the students name any famous football players? What do they know about these players?
- When and where was football first played?  
(A: Over 2000 years ago in China)
- How many people in the world now play football? In how many countries?  
(A: Over 240 million in over 200 countries)
- What other games do students know as football? What similar features do these other games have to football/soccer? Compare and contrast.

## Activities

### Mascots

Many local, national and international events have an official mascot and logo. What is the official mascot for the 2006 FIFA World Cup™? Who does the mascot have as a companion?

What are they and why might they have been chosen? Have a class discussion about the purpose of mascots. Have the students draw or make their own school mascot. Why did they choose it? Have students vote for their favourite class mascot.



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### **Class representatives**

List all the countries taking part in the 2006 World Cup. Place signs with the names of these countries at the front of the classroom. Have students line up behind their country of origin. Fill in a chart to show how many students represented each country. Repeat the activity with students standing in line for their mother's country of origin. Have the numbers changed? Do this again with father's country of origin, grandfather's and grandmother's countries of origin. Discuss which country had the biggest representation, which had the least, and why.

### **Project — Australia's Socceroos**

Ask students to research the following topics and questions:

- Who are the players in the Australian Team?
- Who is the Socceroos captain and in what country was he born?
- Who is the Socceroos coach and where did his parents emigrate from?
- Using newspapers, online resources and magazines, have students research and develop a profile of their favourite Socceroos player.

### **Crunching the numbers**

Go to [www.FIFA.com](http://www.FIFA.com) and look at the world map and the men's and women's teams. According to FIFA international rankings, there are:

- 205 national men's teams. Brazil is ranked first and American Samoa is 205th. (Australia is 44th)
- 125 women's teams. Germany is ranked first and Tanzania 125th. (Australia is 15th)

Discuss why there would be more men's teams than women's teams playing football. What other issues could be discussed when looking at these numbers?

### **Cultural and country study**

With the class locate and mark on a world map all the countries in the 2006 FIFA World Cup™ ([www.FIFAWorldCup.com](http://www.FIFAWorldCup.com) is useful for this activity.)

Encourage students to work in groups or pairs. Assign them a country to research. Ensure they select from a range of socio-economically rich and poor countries. Suggested headings for research for older grades could include: population, capital city, language(s), land area/mass, climate, key geographical features, currency, religion, special features, football zone and competition history.

Younger grades could research flags, national dress, national anthem, coat of arms, food dishes eaten, different cultural celebrations and how to say 'Hello'.

### **A Day of culture**

Allocate a day where students can share something of their culture with the class. They may choose to come in their national dress, bring a food dish well known to their culture, talk about a famous person from their country or perform dance or drama.



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### **Mini World Cup Day**

Divide the class into teams of four. On each team one player will act as goalie and the others will be field players. The teams will play a modified game of football (soccer.) Ask each group to select a country to represent. Have two teams play at a time in a round robin competition. Teams will play for three minutes before swapping. Tally the results to find the winning country. Will it be the country that wins the 2006 World Cup?

### **Football and magic in Africa**

Like many other countries, Africa has 'the magic of football'. When two teams south of the Sahara get together for a match, they haven't just been practising; in many cases, their witchdoctor has conjured up spiritual support for them as well in hopes of ensuring that his team wins, or at least that the opposing team loses. Find out if any other football nations have spiritual support for their teams!

### **Telstra Football Anytime**

The Telstra Football Anytime (TFA) program is a grassroots initiative from Football Federation Australia aimed at

introducing 6–12 year old girls and boys, their families and friends to football — anywhere, anytime and with anyone! To learn more about TFA and download a registration form, log onto: [www.footballaustralia.com.au/default.aspx?s=community\\_programs\\_telstra\\_football\\_anytime](http://www.footballaustralia.com.au/default.aspx?s=community_programs_telstra_football_anytime)

