Russia World



Mini Fact:

Germany won the World Cup in 2014 at the games in Brazil.

Will you be watching the 2018 FIFA World Cup RussiaTM this month? This international sporting event, which takes place every four

years, kicks off on June 14 in 11 different cities in Russia. Let's find out more about the tournament!

What is FIFA?

FIFA (FEE-fah) is a French acronym for the International Federation of Association Football.

FIFA WORLD CUP RUSSIA 2018

(In the U.S., we call this game soccer.) It is the organization in charge of the World Cup and other international soccer tournaments.

Getting organized

FIFA organizes members into six confederations, or groups. Each confederation hosts a tournament to determine which teams qualify for the FIFA World CupTM.

This year, for the first time since 1986, the United States team did not qualify for the World Cup. The country hosting the matches qualifies automatically.

The FIFA World Cup has two stages, or parts: group play and knockout play. In group play, each team plays the other three teams in its assigned group. If a team wins, it receives three points; a draw, or a tie, is awarded one point. The two teams with the most points in each group then advance to the knockout stage, where a loss means elimination.

2018 FIFA World Cup™ Groups

Group B Group C Group A

Russia Saudi Arabia Egypt

Uruguay

Group D

Argentina

Iceland

Croatia

Nigeria

Group G

Belgium

Panama

Tunisia

England

Portugal Spain Morocco Iran

Brazil

Serbia

Group H

Poland

Senegal

Colombia

Japan

France Australia Peru Denmark

Group F

Group E Germany **Switzerland** Mexico Costa Rica Sweden South Korea

First match:

· Thursday, June 14 Final match:

· Sunday, July 15

Following the matches

Check your newspaper to find out where to watch the FIFA World CupTM. The Mini Page® © 2018 Andrews McMeel Syndication

Meet Zabivaka™!

Zabivaka is the official mascot of the 2018 FIFA World Cup™. In Russian, his name means "the one who scores."

Zabivaka is a wolf. His job is to entertain crowds at the stadiums during matches and be an ambassador, or representative, for Russia.

His name was chosen by more than 1 million Russians who voted online.

Where are the matches?

In Russia, 11 cities will host World Cup matches. See if you can find these Russian cities on a globe or in an atlas:

- Ekaterinburg
- Rostov-on-Don
- Kaliningrad
 - Saint Petersburg
- Kazan • Samara
- Saransk Moscow
- Nizhny Sochi Novgorod Volgograd



The Spartak Stadium in Moscow holds more than 45,000 spectators.

Resources

On the Web:

- fifa.com/worldcup • fifa.com/worldcup/matches

Mini Jokes

Sasha: What position do

Alexandra: Ghoulie!

Eco Note

Ozone gas exists in

ghosts play in soccer?

several levels of the atmosphere. Lowlevel ozone can be harmful, but a layer

shields us from harmful ultraviolet (UV)

rays in sunlight. Ultraviolet radiation is harmful to plants, animals and people. It can cause skin cancer, eye cataracts

and other health problems. Because of ozone loss, it's vital to apply suntan

lotion whenever you're in the sun, and

wear sunglasses to protect your eyes.

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of ozone high in the stratosphere

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of the World Cup are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

AMBASSADOR, CITIES, CONFEDERATION, CUP, DRAW, ELIMINATION, FIFA, FOOTBALL, GROUP, KNOCKOUT, PLAY, QUALIFY, RUSSIA, SOCCER, STAGE, TOURNAMENT, WOLF, WORLD, ZABIVAKA.

QPSEITICDPUCSWV H N P U O R G L L A B T O O F AMBASSADORAVL MTUOKCONKGLXKL ZABIVAKAEA UDRAWQUAL GMVOQYAL PRE C LNOITAN XFNSTOURNAMENTU N O ITAREDEFNOCKR

Cook's Corner **Blackberry Parfait**

You'll need:

What to do:

• 1 (1-ounce) package sugar-free instant vanilla pudding

minutes to combine preserves and fruit. Let cool.

4. Spoon whipped dairy topping as the final layer. Serves 4.

top. Layer with remaining pudding, then with blackberry sauce.

- 2 cups low-fat milk
- 2 cups blackberries, rinsed
- 3 tablespoons seedless blackberry preserves
- whipped dairy topping



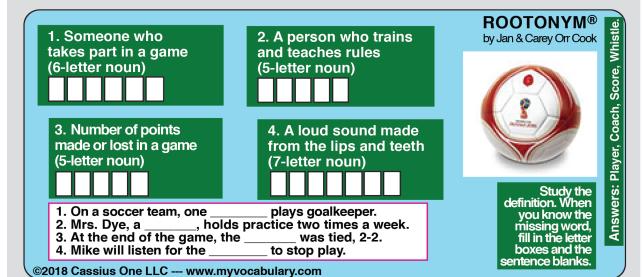
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For later:

Cut out the World Cup Groups chart above and keep track of the winners in each group and in the knockout stage.

Teachers: For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bit.ly/MPstandards. And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!





1. Make pudding according to package directions. Chill for 5 minutes until barely set.

2. Place blackberries and preserves in a small saucepan; cook on medium heat for 5

3. Spoon half of pudding evenly into 4 parfait dishes. Spoon 1/4 cup blackberry sauce on

