



The Mini Page

Next Week:
Summer
safety

Issue 23, 2018

Founded by Betty Debnam

Russia Hosts the World



photo courtesy Agencia Brasil

Mini Fact:

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

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



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

photo courtesy Government of Moscow Press Centre

Will you be watching the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ 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. (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 Cup™.

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.



FIFA WORLD CUP
RUSSIA 2018
Images © FIFA TM

2018 FIFA World Cup™ Groups

Group A	Group B	Group C
Russia	Portugal	France
Saudi Arabia	Spain	Australia
Egypt	Morocco	Peru
Uruguay	Iran	Denmark
Group D	Group E	Group F
Argentina	Brazil	Germany
Iceland	Switzerland	Mexico
Croatia	Costa Rica	Sweden
Nigeria	Serbia	South Korea
Group G	Group H	
Belgium	Poland	First match:
Panama	Senegal	• Thursday, June 14
Tunisia	Colombia	Final match:
England	Japan	• Sunday, July 15

Following the matches

Check your newspaper to find out where to watch the FIFA World Cup™.

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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.

Q P S E I T I C D P U C S W V
H N P U O R G L L A B T O O F
A M B A S S A D O R A V L R O
M T U O K C O N K G L X K L I
Z A B I V A K A E A F I F D A
U D R A W Q U A L I F Y M L I
G M V O Q Y A L P R E C C O S
J I L N O I T A N I M I L E S
X F N S T O U R N A M E N T U
N O I T A R E D E F N O C K R



Cook's Corner

Blackberry Parfait

You'll need:

- 1 (1-ounce) package sugar-free instant vanilla pudding
- 2 cups low-fat milk
- 2 cups blackberries, rinsed

- 3 tablespoons seedless blackberry preserves
- whipped dairy topping



* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

What to do:

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 minutes to combine preserves and fruit. Let cool.
3. Spoon half of pudding evenly into 4 parfait dishes. Spoon 1/4 cup blackberry sauce on top. Layer with remaining pudding, then with blackberry sauce.
4. Spoon whipped dairy topping as the final layer. Serves 4.

Mini Jokes



Sasha: What position do ghosts play in soccer?
Alexandra: Ghoulie!

Eco Note



Ozone gas exists in several levels of the atmosphere. Low-level ozone can be harmful, but a layer of ozone high in the stratosphere 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.

adapted with permission from "50 Things You Should Know About the Environment" by Jen Green, © QEB Publishing Inc.

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!



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1. Someone who takes part in a game (6-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □

2. A person who trains and teaches rules (5-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □

3. Number of points made or lost in a game (5-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □

4. A loud sound made from the lips and teeth (7-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

1. On a soccer team, one _____ plays goalkeeper.
2. Mrs. Dye, a _____, holds practice two times a week.
3. At the end of the game, the _____ was tied, 2-2.
4. Mike will listen for the _____ to stop play.

ROOTONYM®

by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Player, Coach, Score, Whistle.

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