

Summer of Soccer



Excitement is building for the 2026 World Cup, which will be held in the United States, Canada, and Mexico in June and July.

LEXILE: 1060L

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Global Connections

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.2, RI.6-8.7, W.6-8.8

ENGAGE THE READER

Ask students to name their favorite athlete and sport. Invite them to share any stats they know. Did anyone name a soccer player? Explain that this summer, the World Cup will be played in the U.S., Mexico, and Canada. Invite students to share their thoughts about the tournament. Write some responses on the board. Then have students read “Summer of Soccer” to learn more.

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- How is this year’s World Cup historic?
- How are host cities preparing? What other plans do you think they should make?
- Why do you think TIME for Kids chose to cover this event?

EXTEND LEARNING

Bring the class back together and point out the quotes from Tobias Oviedo. Why was a kid quoted? Look at the list of responses you created at the beginning of the lesson. Would any of these make good quotes for the article?

Tell students they’ll be learning more about a player who’ll be playing in the World Cup this summer. You can provide a list, or work as a class to make a list of players to look out for. Then pass out index cards, one to each student, which can be used to make trading cards. Give students time to research the details that typically appear on trading cards, and ample time to create their cards. Once the cards are done, allow students to share information about their player, and to trade cards with one another. Close the lesson by asking who plans to watch one or more World Cup games this summer.

COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

The cover quiz can be found on page 2 of this guide.

To create a digital quiz, you can use our template [here](#).

1. **C** (RI.1) 2. **B** (RI.1) 3. **A** (RI.4) 4. **A** (RI.6) 5. **D** (RI.8)

6. **B** (RI.7) 7. Answers will vary. (W.2)

Name _____ Date _____

Use this week's cover story, "Summer of Soccer," to answer the questions below. For questions 1–6, circle the letter next to the best answer. If you need more space to write your response to question 7, you may use the back of this page.

<p>1. Why is this year's World Cup historic?</p> <p>A. It's the 23rd edition of the tournament.</p> <p>B. Kansas City, Missouri, will be a host.</p> <p>C. It'll be hosted by three countries.</p> <p>D. The following day will be a national holiday.</p>	<p>4. Why is the World Cup a big deal to Kansas City?</p> <p>A. The city doesn't usually host big sporting events.</p> <p>B. The city is hosting the championship match.</p> <p>C. The city is hosting the opening match.</p> <p>D. The 2022 World Cup champions are from there.</p>
<p>2. What happened in 1994?</p> <p>A. The World Cup was canceled.</p> <p>B. The U.S. hosted the World Cup.</p> <p>C. Uruguay won the World Cup.</p> <p>D. It was the last time the World Cup was played.</p>	<p>5. What do Tobias Oviedo's quotes tell you about him?</p> <p>A. He's very good at soccer.</p> <p>B. He's excited to be in a host city.</p> <p>C. He hopes Spain wins.</p> <p>D. He loves the sport.</p>
<p>3. What does <i>host</i> mean in the sentence beginning "Host cities have been preparing for the World Cup for years"?</p> <p>A. organizer</p> <p>B. spectator</p> <p>C. competitor</p> <p>D. fan</p>	<p>6. What's the purpose of the map?</p> <p>A. to highlight the countries playing in the tournament</p> <p>B. to show where the World Cup games will be played</p> <p>C. to show where the previous World Cup was hosted</p> <p>D. to give more information about the first World Cup game</p>

7. Imagine some of the pros and cons of being a host city for the FIFA World Cup in 2026.
