

# History of the World Cup (II)



**1982**

First large-scale expansion  
teams expanded from 16 to 24

The Legend of "Maradona"

Maradona performed the "Hand of God" and the "Goal of the Century" against England



**1986**

**1998**

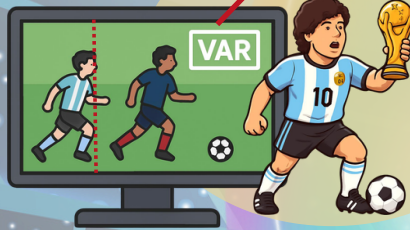
number of teams expanded to 32

France won their first championship

**2022**

Introduces Semi-Automated Offside Technology (SAOT) and Smart Football

Host: Qatar  
First time held in winter



Star player "Messi" helped Argentina win the championship, finally fulfilling his personal World Cup dream

Introductions of the Video Assistant Referee (VAR)

**2018**

Rising star "Mbappe" helping France won the title



**2026**

The first time co-hosted by three countries with an opening ceremony to be held simultaneously

expanded to 48 teams  
104 matches

Mascots for the 2026 World Cup



Canada Maple™ the Moose Goalkeeper



USA Clutch™ the Bald Eagle Midfielder



Mexico Zayu™ the Jaguar Striker

The first country to host the World Cup three times (1970, 1986, 2026)

Brazil won their fifth World Cup title, becoming the team with the most World Cup victories



Korea-Japan World Cup

**2002**

The first time it was co-hosted by two countries and held in Asia

**2014**

WORLD CUP 2014	
BRAZIL	GERMANY
1	7

Host country Brazil suffered a 1-7 defeat to Germany in the semifinal, plunging the country into its greatest shame since the "Maracanã Smash"

Germany secured the title by defeating Argentina in the final



**2010**

First time held in Africa (South Africa)

Spain captured their first title with their Tiki-Taka style of play