FIFA World Cup 26

The FIFA World Cup 26 will start on June 11. FIFA is a world soccer group. The World Cup is a world championship soccer tournament. The best men's soccer teams from around the world will compete in the World Cup 26. Different countries host the World Cup every four years. The 2022 World Cup was in Qatar, a country in Asia. Three countries in North America will host the World Cup 26. These countries are Canada, Mexico, and the U.S.

FUN FACT: The first World Cup was in 1930.

FIFA Mascots

FIFA creates mascots for countries that host the World Cup. Mascots help people become excited about the World Cup. FIFA created three mascots for the World Cup 26. Each mascot represents a host country. The three mascots are Maple the Moose for Canada, Zayu the Jaguar for Mexico, and Clutch the Bald Eagle for the U.S. Each mascot is a soccer player. Maple is a goalkeeper, Zayu is a striker, and Clutch is a midfielder. The mascots will be in a video game titled FIFA Heroes. The mascots are in a video game titled FIFA Super League Soccer too.

The Teams

The World Cup 26 includes many teams. Since 1998, the World Cup has included 32 teams. The World Cup 26 includes 48 teams for the first time. Each team is from a different country. The countries include Argentina, Canada, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, the U.S., and more. The teams will compete by playing soccer games. The teams will play on soccer fields in big stadiums. The World Cup 26 will include 104 games. The first game will be on June 11 at the Estadio Azteca stadium in Mexico City, Mexico.

Playing the Game

Two soccer teams compete during a soccer game. Each team has 11 players on the field. The players run and kick a ball on the field. They try to kick the ball into the other team's goal. The team that scores the most goals wins the game. Two teams will compete in the World Cup final. The final is the last game and the championship game of the World Cup. The World Cup 26 final will be on July 19 at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. The final will include a halftime show for the first time.

The Champions

One team will win the final. This team will be the World Cup 26 champions! The winning team will receive the World Cup trophy. Each player on the winning team will receive a medal. The World Cup is one of the world's biggest sports events. The World Cup 26 is June 11 to July 19. People around the world will watch the World Cup 26 on TV. Will you watch the FIFA World Cup 26?

FUN FACT: Brazil has won the World Cup the most times.

FIFA

FIFA is a world soccer group that includes more than 200 countries. FIFA makes the rules for soccer and big soccer tournaments such as the World Cup. FIFA stands for the Fédération Internationale de Football Association. In English this name is the International Federation of Association Football. Association football is another name for soccer. FIFA was started in 1904 and has headquarters in Zürich, Switzerland.

North America

North America is one of seven continents in the world. North America includes 23 countries. The biggest country by size is Canada. The biggest country by population is the U.S. St. Kitts and Nevis is the smallest country in North America. North America is surrounded by the Arctic Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, and Pacific Ocean. More than 450 million people live in North America.

Review

1. **WHAT is the main idea of this article?**

   - ◯ Different countries host the World Cup every four years.
   - ◯ FIFA is a world soccer group.
   - ◯ The FIFA World Cup 26 is June 11 to July 19.

2. **CIRCLE True or False about the following statements:**

The World Cup is a world championship soccer tournament.	True	False
Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. are in North America.	True	False
The World Cup is held every year.	True	False

3. **ANSWER these questions about the article:**

   What are Maple, Zayu, and Clutch? _____

   Who will compete in the World Cup 26? _____

4. **NUMBER these events in the order they will happen:**

   _____ The first game is played in Mexico City, Mexico.

   _____ Two teams compete in the World Cup final.

   _____ The winning team receives the World Cup trophy.

5. **CIRCLE Fact or Opinion about the following statements:**

Three countries in North America will host the World Cup 26.	Fact	Opinion
The World Cup 26 final will include a halftime show.	Fact	Opinion

Think

1. **DO you like to watch soccer? WHY?**

2. **WHAT would you like to compete in? WHY?**

3. **DESCRIBE a mascot you would create.**

4. **HOW might having more teams change the World Cup?**