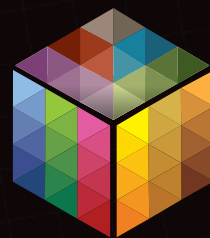


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INTERACTIVE READER • Volume C





INTERACTIVE READER

VOLUME C

Elementary System

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By Aileen Wagner

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Annotations

Focus Questions

Soccer is the most popular sport in the world. More people play and watch soccer than any other sport. In most parts of the world, soccer is called football. A game, or match, is played on a large field with two large goal nets at either end. Two teams of eleven players compete to win the match. Players score points by getting the soccer ball in the other team's goal. One player guards the goal and can use any part of his or her body to keep the ball out of the net. The other players are not allowed to touch the ball with their hands. They move the ball by kicking it and bouncing it off their heads.

The World's Biggest Sporting Event

Every four years, soccer players from around the world meet to play for their home countries in a special tournament. This competition is called the World Cup. The group that runs the World Cup is known as FIFA, which stands for Fédération Internationale de Football Association. It is based in Zurich, Switzerland. The team that wins the World Cup earns the title of best men's soccer team in the world. The best women players compete in the Women's World Cup.

The Women's World Cup is also played every four years. Billions of people watch the FIFA World Cup on television. The most recent World Cup was held in Brazil in the summer of 2014. Sixty-four games were played at twelve different stadiums. More than three million tickets were sold to soccer fans who came to watch the tournament.

The Cost of Hosting the World Cup

Every four years, FIFA chooses a new location where the World Cup will be played. Countries all over the world hope to be chosen to host the next World Cup. Hosting the World Cup is a great honor. It also brings huge profits to the host country's businesses. This money helps the host country's economy, but hosting such a big event is a lot of work. A country must invest a great deal of time and money to prepare for it. In 2014, Brazil spent about \$14 billion dollars preparing to host the World Cup. Most of this money was spent building soccer stadiums and improving roads. Some money was used to expand bus and train service. To meet FIFA's rules, Brazil built new stadiums and made its older stadiums bigger. To make room for the new stadiums, the Brazilian government tore down many homes and businesses. The new stadiums also made the neighborhoods where they were built more expensive. As a result, some families could not afford to stay in homes they had lived in for many years. These changes upset many people in Brazil. Some protested outside the World Cup stadiums. Some even booed the president of Brazil during the World Cup opening ceremony.

Annotations

Focus Questions

Annotations

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The Benefits of Hosting the World Cup

Why do countries such as Brazil work so hard and spend so much money just to host a sporting event? Many people believe the benefits of hosting the World Cup are far greater than the costs. During the World Cup, millions of tourists come to the country and city where it is held. Tourists spend money on food, hotels, transportation, and event tickets. They buy clothing and gifts in local retail shops. Tourist dollars mean huge profits for airlines and bus, train, and taxi companies. Taxes and fees paid by tourists bring in millions of dollars for government programs. During the World Cup, the host city is the center of attention of sports fans all over the world. This kind of attention can attract even more tourists and money. Host countries also improve their roads, buses, and trains to help visitors travel more easily. After the World Cup is over, these improvements make life easier for local residents. Construction projects also create jobs for local workers. Thousands of local people are also hired to work in stadiums, restaurants, and hotels during the World Cup.



What happens to the stadiums after the World Cup ends? Sometimes they are used for concerts and sports. Many stand empty and unused. Some people think the stadiums are a waste of money that could have been used to help local people. Ideas for creative ways to use the empty stadiums have come from all over the world. For example, two architects created a plan that would turn the outside walls of the stadiums into apartment units. This might be a good plan for Brazil and other countries that do not have enough homes for all their people. It would also be a smart way to reuse buildings that cost millions of dollars to build. Brazil also plans to use some of the stadiums again when it hosts the 2016 Summer Olympic Games.

Russia will host the next World Cup in 2018. Planning for this exciting event has already begun. Construction projects will continue until the 2018 World Cup begins. Russia plans to spend even more money on stadiums than Brazil did. Do you think this is a good idea? How would you feel if your city or town were chosen to host the 2022 World Cup? What suggestions would you make to help your town prepare for this exciting event?

Focus Questions