

**FIFA
WORLD CUP
2026™**
CANADA • MEXICO • USA

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World cup by the numbers, what data can reveal about the game

We live in a data filled world. Data is everywhere, including sports. As you consider these questions or some of your own, source your data. What investigative questions do you have about the World Cup tournament? What questions do you have that you can answer with data?

Here's some ideas to get you started.

Questions about winning and advancing

- How often does the team that scores first win?
- How often do games go to extra time or penalty kicks?
- How often do host countries perform better than expected?
- Are penalty shootouts basically random, or are there patterns?

Questions about geography/regions

- Which continents or regions have had the most success in the Men's World Cup?
- Has participation from different regions changed over time?
- How does a team's travel distance or host-continent advantage relate to performance?
- Does weather, altitude, location and/or time zone have an effect on teams or scores?

Questions about fairness and format

- Does the tournament format effect which teams advance?
- How does expanding the number of teams change the chances for different regions?
- Are some groups more difficult than others? How could we measure "group difficulty"?
- Is goal difference a fair way to decide which teams advance?

Make a presentation telling your data story. What question(s) did you ask? What data did you collect? What answers do you have for your questions?

For more resources and tasks for K-12 data science go here:

<https://www.youcubed.org/resource/data-literacy/>