



# The Greatest Show on Earth

**The whole world goes football-mad this month, as the World Cup kicks off in Germany.**

The FIFA World Cup begins in Germany this month, and all eyes will be focused on a sporting event that is universally considered to be “the greatest show on earth”.

The tournament consists of 32 teams from six continents, 30 referees, sporting venues in 12 cities, more than 46,000 hotel rooms and 3 million tickets.

There’s no other event on the world sporting calendar that can

extract from people such unbridled passion and sheer human emotion, and that includes the Olympic Games. It’s unmatched in comparison!

The pure magnitude of the World Cup is awe-inspiring, and can be so overwhelming that many countries live and breathe the round ball game of soccer, known internationally as football. This will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for many players, officials and spectators.

Australia’s team, The Socceroos, will take part in this extravaganza for only the second time in our history. The first was in 1974 and now, 32 years later, we will contest the event on the same stage at the same location, Germany. Is it coincidence, or is it fate?

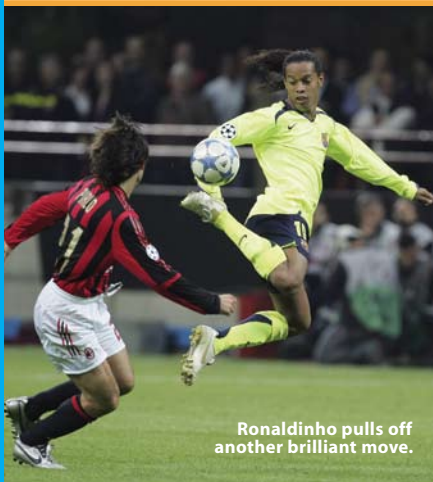
In 1974, Australia qualified for the World Cup by beating South Korea in a playoff, but were drawn in the so-called “group of death” and finished bottom, though it hardly seemed to matter. They lost 2-0 to East Germany, then 3-0 to hosts and eventual champions West Germany, and drew nil-all with Chile.

In 2005 the Socceroos qualified for the World Cup when they defeated Uruguay in a penalty



shootout at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, which sent the 80,000-plus fans at the ground, and millions watching on television, into an absolute frenzy.

If you compare Australia’s two World Cup soccer teams from 1974 and 2006, you’ll find there’s an enormous difference between them. While the modern day players earn a fortune playing abroad in the lucrative European competitions, the 1974 team were part-timers. They’d come from different parts of the world, searching for a better life in Australia, and were brought together by one common love – soccer.



Ronaldinho pulls off another brilliant move.



Travis Dodd flies for United.



**(USE THIS ARTICLE TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS)**



### ACTIVITY 1: SKIMMING FOR MAIN IDEAS

Look at the heading, the photograph of GOLEO VI (Go Leo 2006) to the right of the heading and the three photographs at the bottom of the story. Read the first paragraph in bold:

1. Where was the FIFA World Cup held this year?

---

2. This is an event that teams from throughout the whole world participated in.

**True**                      **False**

3. In this report, "football" means soccer.

**True**                      **False**

### ACTIVITY 2: SCANNING FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION

1. Find and write the words in paragraph two that tells us that the World Cup will be an exciting sporting event.

---

2. In this sentence another way to say "universally considered" is

---

3. What information do the photographs on this page add to the article?

---



---



---

### ACTIVITY 3: UNDERSTANDING WORDS IN CONTEXT

Write your own meaning for the words from the article in the boxes below.

WORDS	MEANINGS
"the whole world goes football-mad this month"	
"The pure magnitude of the World Cup is awe-inspiring"	
"This will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for many players, officials and spectators"	
"The Socceroos will take part in this extravaganza for only the second time in our history"	





## ACTIVITY 4: STATISTICS

Read the third paragraph and fill in the correct numbers in the report from the numbers in the box below:

The tournament consists of \_\_\_ teams from \_\_\_ continents, \_\_\_ referees, sporting venues in \_\_\_ cities, more than \_\_\_\_\_ hotel rooms and \_\_\_ million tickets.

30	12	46000	3	32	6
----	----	-------	---	----	---

## ACTIVITY 5: USING A CALCULATOR

46000 hotel rooms were booked for World Cup visitors and 3 million tickets (3000000) were sold.

1. If all the people who bought World Cup tickets were staying in these hotel rooms, how many people would there be per room?

---

2. How would we round this figure to show whole numbers?

---

3. Is it likely that this many people would be staying in each room?

---

4. Where else could visitors to the World Cup events be staying?

---

### Just for fun!

Read more about World Cup 2006

<http://fifaworldcup.yahoo.com>