

Finalists of the FIFA World Cup (July 17, 2026)

TEACHING GUIDE

What? We finally know the two finalists for the 2026 FIFA World Cup: Argentina and Spain will face off for the world championship title! 🏆

Who? Argentina, the reigning champions led by Lionel Messi, and Spain, the European champions, nicknamed "La Roja."

Where? The final will be held at the stadium in New York, New Jersey, USA, one of the three host countries along with Canada and Mexico.

When? On Sunday, July 19, 2026, after a month of competition that started with 48 teams.

Why is it important? Because Argentina could become the first team to win two World Cups in a row since Brazil in 1962!

🎯 **For this activity, your goal will be to learn a little more about these two soccer teams!** ⚽



OBJECTIVES

- Locate Argentina and Spain and compare their main characteristics.
- Use Wikipedia to find specific information.
- Read and understand an informative text from the news.
- Consult official FIFA statistics.
- Formulate a prediction and justify it using data.



SUBJECTS

- **Social Sciences / Geography**
 - Locate two countries (Argentina, Spain)
 - Continents, capitals, areas
 - Populations and official languages
- **English**
 - Reading an informative text
 - Understanding of instructions
 - Writing short answers
 - Documentary research
- **Mathematics**
 - Reading large numbers
 - Comparison of numerical data
 - Reading statistical tables



COMPETENCIES

- Searching for and selecting information on the internet
- Reading and understanding an informational text
- Reading and interpreting statistical data
- Organizing one's thoughts
- Formulating an opinion supported by data



DURATION

- Approximately 45 minutes



GETTING STARTED

- Ask the students if they followed the World Cup this summer.
- Ask them if they know which teams are playing in the final.
- Locate Argentina and Spain on a world map.
- Discuss: Can we predict the result of a match using statistics?
- Gather their predictions: Who will win on Sunday?

Finalists of the FIFA World Cup (July 17, 2026)

TEACHING GUIDE



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STEP 1 — Argentina versus Spain. Research on Wikipedia and completion of an identity card for each of the two countries, then answer an opinion question.

Argentina

Spain

Continent — South America.

Capital — Buenos Aires.

Population — 46,735,004 inh.

Area — 2,780,085 km².

Language — Spanish.

Continent — Europe.

Capital — Madrid.

Population — 49,687,120 inh.

Area — 506,030 km².

Language — Spanish.

Q1 — Yes! They are Latin countries, with fairly similar populations! (A well-argued disagreement is also valid: Argentina's area is more than five times that of Spain.)

STEP 2 — The Story of Lionel and Lamine. Reading of an informational text about the famous 2007 photo and answers to four comprehension questions.

Q2 — UNICEF and Barça were preparing a calendar to raise money.

Q3 — A draw was held, and the Yamal family was chosen.

Q4 — Lionel Messi was 20 years old. Lamine Yamal was 6 months old.

Q5 — The two will face each other in the World Cup final!

STEP 3 — Your Prediction. Consultation of team statistics on the FIFA website, writing of a data-driven prediction, and then choice of the winning team's flag.

Q6 — Variable answer.

WRAPPING UP



- Conduct a group review of what the students have learned.
- Discuss what surprised them most (the 2007 photo, the age difference between Messi and Yamal, the difference in land area between the two countries).
- Ask: Are statistics enough to predict a winner?
- Compare the students' predictions: Who is the class favorite?
- Revisit the predictions after the final: Who was correct, and why?



FURTHER EXPLORATION

 Germán Aczel. *The Illustrated History of Soccer World Cup 1930-2026*. Wonder House Books

