

The History of the Football World Cup under the Eye of Philately

2014 – June 12 to July 13, BRAZIL

Returning to South America, the 20th edition of the Football World Cup took place in the country that won the competition the most times. Distributed in 12 cities and the same number of stadiums, 32 countries played in the tournament. Despite the expectation of the Brazilian sixth title, it was the German team that reached its fourth championship. As a World Cup debutant, we only had Bosnia and Herzegovina. Goal-line technology was used for the first time. Another striking fact was the elimination of Brazil after suffering a 7-1 thrashing defeat by Germany at the *Mineirão* stadium. *Maracanã* was, once again, the stage for a Cup final; the German triumph over Argentina, 1-0, came only in overtime. The Brazilian postal service issued a block disclosing the symbols of the Cup and another in honor of the host cities of the tournament.



Champions: **Germany**
Runners-up: **Argentina**

The World Cup in Brazil had a total attendance of 3,386,810 fans distributed among 64 matches

04/21/2014: the *Fuleco* mascot (an armadillo), the FIFA cup and the competition's official poster

2018 – 14 Jun to 15 Jul, RUSSIA

The 21st edition in the history of the Cups was played in Russia for the first time. The 32 classified countries were distributed among 11 cities and the matches used 12 different stadiums. Iceland and Panama were the debut teams in the competition.

The Russian Post has promoted the competition since 2015, the year in which it started releasing commemorative stamps alluding to the event. It issued a total of 62 pieces, surpassing the record, until then, of the South Korean mail in the 2002 World Cup, with 56 stamps.



Champions: **France**
Runners-up: **Croatia**

02/07/2017: the mascot *Zabivaka*, a Siberian wolf, was promoted to ambassador of Russia during the competition

In 64 games, 169 goals were scored and the total audience for the tournament reached 3,031,768 fans.

The Russian Government invested US\$ 11 billion in the preparation and organization of the World Cup.