

Teaching Ideas: Reading Worksheet

## The FIFA Confederations Cup 2009

(June 15th 2009)

### Background information

The Confederations Cup is being held in South Africa from June 14<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> with 8 teams taking part.

### Pre-reading

Before reading the text, answer the questions below.

1. What do you know about the FIFA Confederations Cup?
2. Do you know how often it is held?
3. How do teams qualify for the tournament?
4. Below is a list of the FIFA regions (confederations) – match them with participating teams.

	Confederation		Participating Team
1	CONMEBOL	A	New Zealand
2	UEFA	B	Spain
3	AFC	C	Egypt
4	CONCACAF	D	Brazil
5	CAF	E	The United States
6	OCEANIA	F	Iraq

### A. Main Idea: Skimming for information

Quickly read the whole report and fill in the table with appropriate information

1. How many teams are participating in the tournament?
2. Why are Italy playing in the tournament?
3. What about South Africa?
4. When was the first tournament held?
5. Which countries have won the competition on two occasions?
6. What happens on June 28<sup>th</sup>?

## B. Main Idea

Read the text and put the following paragraph descriptions in order by choosing the correct letter.  
There is one extra so be careful!

1. Negative points of the tournament \_\_\_\_\_
2. Predictions \_\_\_\_\_
3. Positive points of the tournament \_\_\_\_\_
4. Some history \_\_\_\_\_
5. The future of the tournament \_\_\_\_\_
6. Description of the tournament \_\_\_\_\_

## C. Vocabulary

Read the report again and choose the correct meaning from the choices given.

1. The FIFA Confederations Cup **kicks off** in South Africa this week...  
a) begins                      b) finishes                      c) cancels
2. ... winners - the teams that have won the international tournaments in their **respective** regions - as well as...  
a) serious                      b) similar                      c) individual
3. Since FIFA took over **the running** of the tournament in 1997  
a) the organization              b) the hosting                      c) the finances
4. **Initially** it was played every two years but since 2005 it has been decided to play the competition  
a) Finally                      b) Meanwhile                      c) At the start
5. In fact, there are no **guarantees** that the venues will be full at all during the competition  
a) thanks                      b) certainties                      c) supporters

## D. Summary

Write a short summary of the text – no more than 75 words

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### ANSWERS

#### Pre-reading

Before reading the text, answer the questions below.

1. What do you know about the FIFA Confederations Cup?
2. Do you know how often it is held?  
**Every four years**
3. How do teams qualify for the tournament?  
**By winning regional tournament**
4. Below is a list of the FIFA regions (confederations) – match them with their geographical regions.

	Confederation		Participating Team
1	CONMEBOL	D	Brazil
2	UEFA	B	Spain
3	AFC	F	Iraq
4	CONCACAF	E	The United States
5	CAF	C	Egypt
6	OCEANIA	A	New Zealand

#### A. Main Idea: Skimming for information

Quickly read the whole report and fill in the table with appropriate information

1. How many teams are participating in the tournament?  
**8**
2. Why are Italy playing in the tournament?  
**World Champions**
3. What about South Africa?  
**Hosts**
4. When was the first tournament held?  
**1997**
5. Which countries have won the competition on two occasions?  
**Brazil / France**
6. What happens on June 28<sup>th</sup>?  
**Final**

## B. Main Idea

Read the text and put the following paragraph descriptions in order by choosing the correct letter.  
There is one extra so be careful!

- |                                      |                      |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Negative points of the tournament | <u>P 4</u>           |
| 2. Predictions                       | <u>P 5</u>           |
| 3. Positive points of the tournament | <u>P 3</u>           |
| 4. Some history                      | <u>P 2</u>           |
| 5. The future of the tournament      | <b>Not mentioned</b> |
| 6. Description of the tournament     | <u>P 1</u>           |

## C. Vocabulary

Read the report again and choose the correct meaning from the choices given.

- The FIFA Confederations Cup **kicks off** in South Africa this week...  
a) **begins**                      b) finishes                      c) cancels
- ... winners - the teams that have won the international tournaments in their **respective** regions - as well as...  
a) serious                      b) similar                      c) **individual**
- Since FIFA took over **the running** of the tournament in 1997  
a) **the organization**      b) the hosting                      c) the finances
- Initially** it was played every two years but since 2005 it has been decided to play the competition  
a) Finally                      b) Meanwhile                      c) **At the start**
- In fact, there are no **guarantees** that the venues will be full at all during the competition  
a) thanks                      b) **certainties**                      c) supporters

## D. Summary

Write a short summary of the text – no more than 75 words

### SAMPLE

The Confederations Cup – a competition for regional winners – is currently being played in South Africa. Teams from all over the world are trying to win the title on June 28<sup>th</sup> with Brazil hoping to win their third championship. Many are hoping that the tournament can show that South Africa are ready for next year's World Cup finals and locals are hoping for a financial gain. However, the competition has its critics with club managers fearing injuries to star players and the media criticizing the lack of interest from supporters. The favourites to win are Brazil and Spain but many are tipping the USA to do well too.

## Reading

**A** The FIFA Confederations Cup kicks off in South Africa this week with eight teams taking part in a warm-up for the 2010 World Cup finals. The eight sides include the six conference winners - the teams that have won the international tournaments in their respective regions - as well as the hosts, South Africa and the current world champions, Italy. So, New Zealand represent Oceania, Egypt are the current African Nations Cup holders, Spain won the Euro title in 2008, the USA won the CONCACAF regional trophy, Iraq represent the best in Asia, while Brazil are the reigning Copa America champions.

**B** Since FIFA took over the running of the tournament in 1997, Brazil and France have both won it twice, with Mexico winning the other one. Initially it was played every two years but since 2005 it has been decided to play the competition every four years, taking place the year before the World Cup.

**C** The tournament offers a good chance for South Africa to demonstrate that they can smoothly organise an international football competition 12 months before the real thing takes place. It will also bring in some much-needed revenue for the local economy, though there will hardly be any supporters travelling from overseas. In fact, there are no guarantees that the venues will be full at all during the competition - thanks to high ticket prices.

**D** There are other problems. Many of the players have just finished a tough season in Europe, meaning that managers in the top leagues there will be hoping that their star players do not get injured or become burned out. Fans are also suffering from an excess of football and it looks like TV audiences will be low too, so sponsors will not be happy.

**E** So, which team is going to lift the trophy on June 28th? Most people's favourites include Brazil and Spain, while betting against the Italians is never a good idea. New Zealand and Iraq are seen as the outsiders but a good tip for dark horses of the tournament can be the US team who will make life hard for Brazil and Italy in the group stage. Indeed, with some luck they may progress to the final where, I think, they will lose to Spain.