

Women's World Cup

In 2019, the eighth Women's World Cup will be held. It has been held every four years since it was created in 1991. This international football competition sees teams compete against each other to become the champions.



An Unofficial Start

Women's football has been attracting crowds of fans for over 100 years. Many popular women's football teams provided much-loved entertainment throughout the World Wars. However, in 1921, the Football Association said that football as a sport was 'quite unsuitable for females'. They said that it 'ought not to be encouraged' and banned women from playing matches in the grounds of Football Association clubs.

This ban was finally lifted in 1971. In this year, the first unofficial Women's World Cup was held in Mexico. This competition saw six national teams competing against each other in three groups. Although Mexico, Argentina, England, Denmark, France and Italy all competed for the prize, only the game between France and Denmark was officially recognised as an international women's football match.

The First Official Competition

Finally, in 1988, a women's football competition was held in China. This competition was a test to see if a Women's World Cup would be a success. Twelve international teams competed for the prize and, after a tense penalty shootout to decide third place, the competition was called a huge success. The first official Women's World Cup was held in China three years later.

Women's World Cup Competitions

Since 1991, there have been six Women's World Cup competitions hosted around the world. A further two competitions are already scheduled for 2019 and 2023.

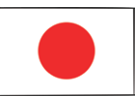


1995	
	
Held in Sweden	Won by Norway

1999	
	
Held in the USA	Won by the USA

2003	
	
Held in the USA	Won by Germany

2007	
	
Held in China	Won by Germany

2011		2015		2019	2023
					
Held in Germany	Won by Japan	Held in Canada	Won by the USA	The competition will be in France	The host country has not been chosen yet

Awards and Prizes

The top prize awarded to the winning team at each Women's World Cup is a trophy. Each trophy is made from bronze, gold, polished aluminium and granite. Each trophy weighs 4.6kg and stands at 47cm tall. The design of the trophy is a spiral band which wraps around a football at the top. Underneath the base of the trophy, the name of the winner is carved into the trophy.

As well as a trophy given to the overall winner, there are six smaller prizes to be won:

- the **Golden Ball** is awarded to the best player;
- the **Golden Boot** is awarded to the top goalscorer;
- the **Golden Glove** is awarded to the best goalkeeper;
- the **Best Young Player Award** is given to the best player under 21 years of age;
- the **Fair Play Award** is given to the team with the best record of playing fairly;
- the best players from the competition overall are picked to be part of an **All-Star Team**.



Did You Know...?

The first official Women's World Cup was held 61 years after the first men's World Cup.

Both Germany and the USA have won the Women's World Cup twice but they have never played each other in the finals.

Questions

1. How often is the Women's World Cup held? Tick **one**.

- ☐ every year
- ☐ every two years
- ☐ every four years
- ☐ every ten years

2. Join the boxes to show who won the Women's World Cup when each of these countries hosted it.

Host
Sweden
Germany
Canada

Winner
Japan
Norway
USA

3. **Find** and **copy two** facts about the Women's World Cup trophy.

1. _____
2. _____

4. Who is the Golden Glove award given to?

5. Look at the section called **The First Official Competition**.

Find and **copy one** word used to describe the penalty shootout.

6. Explain why a women's football competition was held in China in 1988.

7. What was special about the Women's World Cup held in 1999?

8. Summarise what happens at the Women's World Cup in fewer than 20 words.

Answers

1. How often is the Women's World Cup held? Tick **one**.

- ☐ every year
☐ every two years
☒ **every four years**
☐ every ten years

2. Join the boxes to show who won the Women's World Cup when each of these countries hosted it.

Host		Winner
Sweden		Japan
Germany		Norway
Canada		USA

3. **Find** and **copy two** facts about the Women's World Cup trophy.

Accept any two of the following: it is made from bronze, gold, polished aluminium and granite; it weighs 4.6kg; it is 47cm tall; the design is a spiral band which wraps around a football at the top; the winner's name is engraved underneath the base.

4. Who is the Golden Glove award given to?

The Golden Glove is given to the best goalkeeper.

5. Look at the section called The First Official Competition.

Find and **copy one** word used to describe the penalty shootout.

tense

6. Explain why a women's football competition was held in China in 1988.

A women's football competition was held in China in 1988 as a test to see if a Women's World Cup would be a success.

7. What was special about the Women's World Cup held in 1999?

The special thing about the Women's World Cup held in 1999 was that the USA both hosted and won the World Cup. No other country has done this.

8. Summarise what happens at the Women's World Cup in fewer than 20 words.

Pupils' own responses, such as: At the Women's World Cup, national teams from around the world compete against each other to become the champions.

Women's World Cup

2019 will see the eighth international football competition known as the Women's World Cup. It has been held every four years since it was officially **established** in 1991 and the competition sees national teams compete against each other for championship status.

Unofficial Beginnings



Despite the recent creation of the Women's World Cup, women's football has been attracting crowds of **spectators** and fans for over 100 years. Many popular women's football teams provided much-loved entertainment throughout the World Wars. However, in 1921, the Football Association announced that football as a sport was 'quite unsuitable for females'. They said that it 'ought not to be encouraged' and banned women from playing matches in the grounds of Football Association registered clubs.

This ban was finally lifted in 1971 and the first unofficial Women's World Cup was held in Mexico. This competition saw six national teams competing against each other in three groups. Although Mexico, Argentina, England, Denmark, France and Italy all competed for the prize, only the game between France and Denmark was officially recognised as an international women's football match. Even then, this recognition was only given after the match had already been completed.

Establishing the Women's World Cup

Finally, in 1988, a **trial** women's football competition was hosted in China. Twelve international teams competed for the prize and, after a nail-biting penalty shootout to decide third place, the competition was deemed a huge success. The first official Women's World Cup was held in China three years later.

Held in Guangdong from 16th to 30th November 1991, the first official Women's World Cup saw twelve teams divided into three groups of four. The top two teams and the two best third-place finishers from the three groups advanced to the knockout round of eight teams. This eventually saw the United States beat Norway in front of a roaring crowd of 65,000 spectators.



Subsequent Competitions

Since 1991, there have been six Women's World Cup tournaments hosted around the world. A further two competitions are already scheduled for 2019 and 2023.

1995  Held in Sweden Won by Norway	1999  Held in the USA Won by the USA	2003  Held in the USA Won by Germany	2007  Held in China Won by Germany
2011  Held in Germany Won by Japan	2015  Held in Canada Won by the USA	2019  Set to be held in France	2023  Host country remains undecided

Awards and Prizes

The ultimate prize awarded to the winning team at each Women's World Cup is a **prestigious** trophy. Made from bronze, gold, polished aluminium and granite, each trophy weighs 4.6kg and stands at 47cm tall. The design of the trophy is a spiral band which wraps around a football at the top. Beneath the base of the trophy, the name of the winner is **engraved**.

As well as a trophy awarded to the overall winner, there are six smaller prizes to be won at the Women's World Cup:

- the **Golden Ball** is awarded to the best player;
- the **Golden Boot** is awarded to the top goalscorer;
- the **Golden Glove** is awarded to the best goalkeeper;
- the **Best Young Player Award** is given to the best player under 21 years of age;
- the **Fair Play Award** is given to the team with the best record of playing fairly;
- the honour of being part of an **All-Star Team** is given to the best players from the tournament.



Glossary

engraved: To cut or carve something onto a hard surface.

established: Created or set up.

prestigious: Something which is respected and admired.

spectators: People who watch a show, game or event.

trial: A test of something.



Questions

1. In which year was the Women's World Cup officially established? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 1921
- ☐ 1971
- ☐ 1988
- ☐ 1991

2. Number the countries below from 1-5 to show the order in which they have hosted the Women's World Cup. The first one has been done for you.

	Sweden
	Germany
	Canada
1	China
	USA

3. In which month was the first official Women's World Cup held?

4. How much does the Women's World Cup trophy weigh?

5. Look at the section of the text entitled **Establishing the Women's World Cup**. Find and **copy one** word or phrase which means the same as 'tense'.

6. Which country do you think will host the Women's World Cup in 2023? Fully explain your answer.

7. Explain why the Women's World Cup trophy is prestigious.

8. Discuss why the Women's World Cup tournament held in 1999 was unusual.

9. Summarise the Football Association's decision in 1921 and explain its impact.

Answers

1. In which year was the Women's World Cup officially established? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 1921
☐ 1971
☐ 1988
☒ **1991**

2. Number the countries below from 1-5 to show the order in which they have hosted the Women's World Cup. The first one has been done for you.

2	Sweden
4	Germany
5	Canada
1	China
3	USA

3. In which month was the first official Women's World Cup held?

The first official Women's World Cup competition was held in November.

4. How much does the Women's World Cup trophy weigh?

The Women's World Cup trophy weighs 4.6kg.

5. Look at the section of the text entitled **Establishing the Women's World Cup**.

Find and **copy one** word or phrase which means the same as 'tense'.

nail-biting

6. Which country do you think will host the Women's World Cup in 2023? Fully explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Italy will host the 2023 Women's World Cup because they were one of the first six countries to take part in the competition but they have not hosted it yet.

7. Explain why the Women's World Cup trophy is prestigious.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The Women's World Cup trophy is prestigious because it is respected and admired. It takes hard work to get the trophy and not many countries in the world have won it.

8. Discuss why the Women's World Cup tournament held in 1999 was unusual.

The unusual thing about the Women's World Cup held in 1999 was that the USA both hosted and won the World Cup. No other country had done this before and no one has done it since.

9. Summarise the Football Association's decision in 1921 and explain its impact.

Pupils' own responses, such as: In 1921, the Football Association decided to ban women from playing football matches in the grounds of Football Association registered clubs. This meant that women were not able to take part in World Cup competitions, unlike men, and people were not able to enjoy watching their games.

Women's World Cup

2019 will see the eighth occurrence of the international football competition known as the Women's World Cup. Held every four years since it was officially established in 1991, the tournament will see national teams compete against each other for championship status and a host of other awards.

Unofficial Origins



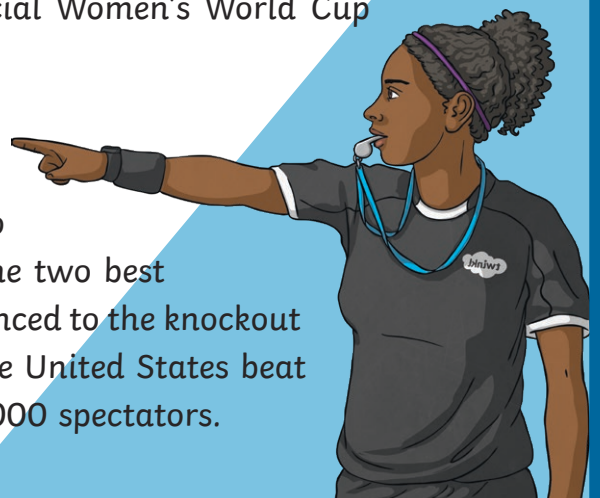
Despite the relatively recent origins of the Women's World Cup, women's football has been officially attracting crowds of spectators and fans for over 100 years, with many popular women's football teams providing much-loved entertainment throughout the World Wars. However, in 1921, the Football Association decreed that football as a sport was 'quite unsuitable for females and ought not to be encouraged', banning women from playing matches in the grounds of Football Association registered clubs.

When this ban was eventually lifted in 1971, the first unofficial Women's World Cup was held in Mexico and saw six national teams competing against each other in three qualifying groups. Although Mexico, Argentina, England, Denmark, France and Italy all competed for the prize in a series of skilled tournaments, only the game between France and Denmark was officially recognised as an international women's football match – recognition which was only given after the match was completed.

Establishing the Women's World Cup

Finally, in 1988 (58 years after the creation of the first men's World Cup tournament and 17 years after the women's football ban was lifted), a trial women's football competition was hosted in China. With twelve international teams competing for the prize and a nail-biting penalty shootout to decide third place, the competition was deemed a huge success and the first official Women's World Cup was held in China three years later.

Held in Guangdong from 16th to 30th November 1991, the first official Women's World Cup saw twelve qualifying teams divided into three groups of four. The top two teams and the two best third-place finishers from the three groups advanced to the knockout round of eight teams, which eventually saw the United States beat Norway 2-1 in front of a roaring crowd of 65,000 spectators.



Subsequent Competitions

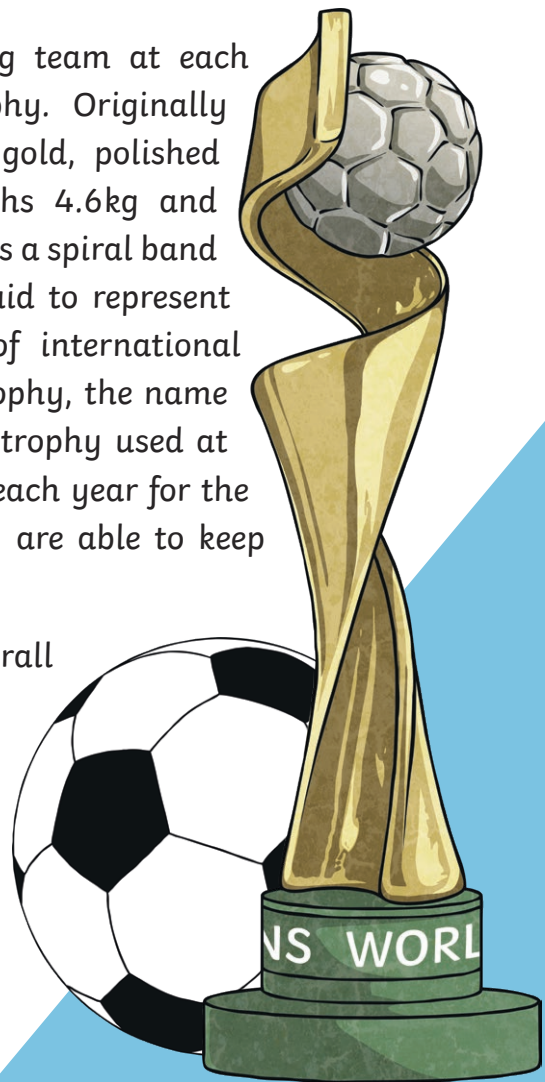
Since 1991, there have been six Women's World Cup tournaments hosted around the globe, with a further two already scheduled for 2019 and 2023.

1995  Hosts: Sweden Winners: Norway	1999  Hosts: USA Winners: USA	2003  Hosts: USA Winners: Germany	2007  Hosts: China Winners: Germany
2011  Hosts: Germany Winners: Japan	2015  Hosts: Canada Winners: USA	2019  Set to be held in France	2023  Host country remains undecided

Awards and Prizes

The ultimate prize awarded to the winning team at each Women's World Cup is a prestigious trophy. Originally designed in 1998 and made from bronze, gold, polished aluminium and granite, each trophy weighs 4.6kg and stands at 47cm tall. The design of the trophy is a spiral band which encloses a football at the top. It is said to represent the athleticism, dynamism and elegance of international women's football. Beneath the base of the trophy, the name of the winner is engraved. Unlike the single trophy used at the men's World Cup, a new trophy is made each year for the winner of the Women's World Cup and they are able to keep this trophy indefinitely.

In addition to the trophy awarded to the overall winner of the tournament, there are six smaller prizes to be won by competitors:



- the **Golden Ball** is awarded to the best player;
- the **Golden Boot** is awarded to the top goalscorer;
- the **Golden Glove** is awarded to the best goalkeeper;
- the **Best Young Player Award** is given to the best player under 21 years of age;
- the **Fair Play Award** is given to the team with the best record of playing fairly;
- the honour of being part of an **All-Star Team** is given to the best players from the tournament, regardless of the national team they have represented.



Questions

1. **Held every four years since it was officially established in 1991...**

Which of these words is closest in meaning to the word 'established' in this sentence?

Tick **one**.

- ☐ created
- ☐ destroyed
- ☐ forgotten
- ☐ retaliated

2. Join the boxes to show who will take home each of the following awards.

Golden Ball
Golden Boot
Golden Glove

best goalscorer
best player
best goalkeeper

3. **Find** and **copy one** word or phrase from the text which shows that women's football has been well-liked for a long time.

4. **Find** and **copy one** word which shows that the crowd at the 1991 Women's World Cup final were noisy.

5. **...a trial women's football competition was hosted in China.**

What does the word 'trial' tell you about this football competition?

6. One sub-heading in the text is **Subsequent Competitions**.

What do you think the word 'subsequent' must mean based on the contents of this section?

7. Comment on the Football Association's decree in 1921 and give your opinion on it.

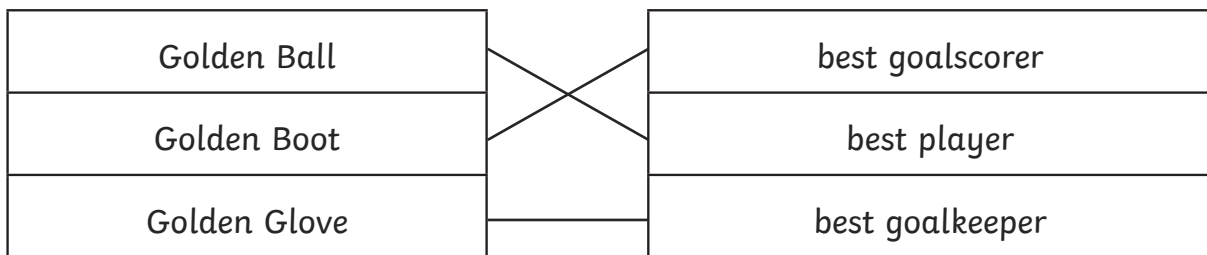
8. Compare and contrast the trophy awarded at the Women's World Cup to that given at the men's World Cup.

9. Summarise what happened in the world of women's football in 1971.

10. Explain what the design of the Women's World Cup trophy is said to represent.

Answers

- Held every four years since it was officially established in 1991...**
Which of these words is closest in meaning to the word 'established' in this sentence?
Tick **one**.
☒ **created**
☐ destroyed
☐ forgotten
☐ retaliated
- Join the boxes to show who will take home each of the following awards.



- Find and copy one** word or phrase from the text which shows that women's football has been well-liked for a long time.

Accept any one of the following: (officially) attracting crowds of spectators and fans for over 100 years; (many popular women's football teams) providing much-loved entertainment throughout the World Wars.

- Find and copy one** word or phrase from the text which shows that women's football has been well-liked for a long time.

roaring

- ...a trial women's football competition was hosted in China.**
What does the word 'trial' tell you about this football competition?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The word 'trial' tells me that this football competition was a test run for a potential bigger competition.

- One sub-heading in the text is **Subsequent Competitions**.
What do you think the word 'subsequent' must mean based on the contents of this section?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the word 'subsequent' must mean 'things that come after' because the competitions discussed in this section came after the original one.

7. Comment on the Football Association's decree in 1921 and give your opinion on it.

Pupils' own responses, such as: In 1921, the Football Association decided to ban women from playing football matches in the grounds of Football Association registered clubs. I think that this is unfair because women are just as entitled to play football as men are; men were not banned so women should not have been.

8. Compare and contrast the trophy awarded at the Women's World Cup to that given at the men's World Cup.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Both the Women's World Cup and men's World Cup trophies are given to just the winning team. However, the women get to keep their trophy whereas the men have to give theirs back for the next team to receive.

9. Summarise what happened in the world of women's football in 1971.

Pupils' own responses, such as: In 1971, the ban on women's football was lifted and the first unofficial Women's World Cup was held in Mexico. This led to one of the first times that a women's international football match was officially recognised.

10. Explain what the design of the Women's World Cup trophy is said to represent.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The design of the Women's World Cup trophy is said to represent the athleticism, dynamism and elegance of international women's football. It also represents the sport as there is a football on top of the trophy.