



Every sport has a pinnacle game played at the end of the season, so that a champion can be named as the best of the year. The NFL has the Super Bowl, the NHL has the Stanley Cup, and MLB has the World Series. Soccer is no exception to this practice, except the champion is truly the Champion of the World. Last year was a World Cup year and Germany hosted the prestigious games. 198 national football associations from all six populated continents participated in the qualification process which began in December 2003. Thirty-two teams qualified from this process for the final tournament. In total sixty-four games were played. The tournament was won by Italy, their fourth world championship, defeating France 5–3 in a penalty shootout after extra time finished in a 1–1 draw. Germany defeated Portugal 3–1 to finish third.

- The World Cup has been played every 4 years since 1930 with the exception in 1942 and 1946 because of World War II.
- The Most World Cup Championships were won by Brazil. Brazilian National team won 5 Championships. (1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 2002). Italy has won 4 times. (1934, 1938, 1982,2006)
- Germany has won 3 times. (1954, 1974, 1990)
- Argentina has won 2 times. (1930, 1950)
- France has won once. (1998)

- Next World Cup will be played in 2010 in South Africa. Tickets are available at: <http://www.empiretickets.com>