



Newsletter for English Teachers About the USA – Virtual Classroom

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2010 FIFA World Cup

The 2010 FIFA World Cup is the world's biggest single sporting event, and with over half the world watching, millions will come together to share the passion of soccer – or football as it's called around the world. Soccer is the world's most popular game, a sport over which no nation can claim ownership. Its World Cup is truly international and the ultimate yardstick of national self-esteem.

The 2010 FIFA World Cup will be the 19th FIFA World Cup. It will take place between June 11 and July 11 in South Africa. This will be the first time that the tournament has been hosted by an African nation, after South Africa beat Morocco and Egypt in an all-African bidding process. This decision left the Oceania Football Confederation as the only confederation yet to host the FIFA World Cup. The 2010 FIFA World Cup will be the culmination of a qualification process that began in August 2007 and involved 204 of the 208 FIFA national teams. As such, it matches the 2008 Summer Olympics as the sports event with the most competing nations. The World Cup is held every four years and teams from thirty-two countries take part in the competition.

In an April 2009 letter to FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter, Obama wrote that soccer "is truly the world's sport, and the World Cup promotes camaraderie and friendly competition across the globe." Vice President Biden and Dr. Jill Biden will represent the United States at the opening ceremonies of the 2010 FIFA World Cup and attend the U.S. Men's National Team's first game on June 12.

America.gov Article: [Soccer or Football? Americans Love the Game No Matter the Name](#). The biggest soccer tournament in the world begins in June in South Africa, where much — but not all — of the world will call the game "football." Soccer is the word for football in several countries. Canada, Australia, South Africa and 2002 co-host Japan all use the term to varying degrees.

Teaching Links

- Merriam-Webster: [Visual Dictionary Online](#) | [Player Positions](#)
- About.com: [German-English Soccer Glossary A-M](#) | [N-Z](#)
- English Grammar Online: [Soccer Vocabulary](#)
- Activities for ESL Students: [Soccer Vocabulary](#)

Lesson Plans

- Free English Lessons Online: [Elementary English - The 2010 FIFA World Cup](#)
- NYT Learning Network: [Uniting their Nation](#). (June 10)
- NYT Learning Network: [Know the Score: Looking at South Africa Through the Lens of the World Cup](#). (March 16)

Blogs at America.gov: [Is the patriotism that gets fueled every four years by the World Cup a good or a bad thing?](#) COMMENT

Commentary

See what two of the major think tanks in the U.S. have to say about the World Cup:

- Brookings Institution: [The 2010 World Cup in Africa: Scoring Beyond the Soccer Field](#)
- German Marshall Fund of the U.S.: [Soccer? Football? However you say it, the Yanks are coming](#)



© America.gov - Download and print the [2010 World Cup Poster](#) (PDF, 5MB).

Links

- [2010 FIFA World Cup Site](#)
- [South Africa 2010 World Cup Site](#)
- America.gov: [People & Places – World Cup Content](#) Feature: [Democracy Is Soccer?](#) | Blog: [By the People: FIFA World Cup Entries](#)
- [U.S. Mission to South Africa: U.S. Mission to South Africa 2010 World Cup Site](#) (news, resources)
- Facebook: [U.S. Mission to South Africa](#)
- Twitter: [U.S. Embassy Pretoria](#)



© AP Image/ America.gov: [U.S. Men's World Cup Team Receives Presidential Send-Off](#)

Article: [Leisurely Practice for U.S. Before Real Work Starts](#) (NYT, June 6, 2010)





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MILLENNIALS

A PORTRAIT OF GENERATION NEXT

PEW Research: [The Millennials: Confident, Connected, Open to Change](#) — Generations, like people, have personalities, and Millennials -- the American teens and twenty-somethings who are making the passage into adulthood at the start of a new millennium -- have begun to forge theirs: confident, self-expressive, liberal, upbeat and open to change. They are more ethnically and racially diverse than older adults. They're less religious, less likely to have served in the military, and are on track to become the most educated generation in American history. [...] Who are they? How are they different? How might they reshape America in the future? The Pew Research Center sets out to answer these questions in a [yearlong series](#) of original reports that explore the behaviors, values and opinions of the Millennials. [More](#)
The Quiz: [How Millennial are You](#)

"The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience."

— Eleanor Roosevelt

An overview of some of the differences between Baby Boomers (born 1946 to 1964), Generation X (born 1964 to 1981) and Millennials (born after 1981)
(Based on "Millennials Coming to College," by Robert DeBard from [Serving the Millennial Generation: New Directions for Student Services](#) by Michael D. Coomes, Robert DeBard (Editors).

Level of trust toward authority. Boomers are confident of self, not authority. Gen Xers have a low level of trust toward authority. Millennials have a high level of trust toward authority. Yet they are less trustworthy of individual people. Perhaps it's from being born into an age of terrorism or maybe it's their over-protective parents or the danger-obsessed media. **What do they view as the ultimate reward?** Boomers want a prestigious title and the corner office. Gen Xers want the freedom not to have to do something. Millennials prefer meaningful work. **What are their views toward having children?** Boomers are controlled, their children were planned. Gen Xers are doubtful about the possibility of becoming parents. Millennials are definite about parenthood. In fact, they view marriage and parenthood as more important than careers and success. **Views toward education?** Boomers want freedom of expression. Gen Xers are pragmatic. Millennials need the structure of accountability. **Last but not least, the views on the big question.** Boomers want to know, "What does it mean?" Gen Xers need to know, "Does it work?" Millennials are curious to know, "How do we build it?"

Generations: The Millennials

Millennials," the generation born between 1980 (some point to 1978 or 1982 to mark this generation) and 2000, currently include roughly 95 million young people up to 30 years of age. This makes the Millennials the biggest age group in U.S. history.

The Millennial generation has already begun to emerge as a powerful political and social force – and some of them are working at the White House. The Millennials are well-educated, open-minded, and independent—in political, social, and philosophical terms.

According to the Pew Research Center, the Millennials are "confident, self-expressive, liberal, upbeat and open to change." They are also, "more ethnically and racially diverse, less religious, less likely to have served in the military and on track to becoming the most educated generation in American history."

The Millennials have also been described as [a caring generation](#), one that is willing to put the greater good ahead of individual rewards. These people prefer a different name for this generation -- "Generation We." However, other have variously dubbed the generation "Generation Me," "Generation Y" or the "Everyone Gets an Award Generation."

The question is, are the Millennials "the dumbest generation or the next great generation"? - "Some have deemed the [Millennials] smart and engaged, pointing to record competitiveness for admission to top colleges and surging political participation. Others cite the average two hours that youths spend each day watching television--and the average eight minutes they spend reading--and lament that their access to video games, the Internet, and other digital technologies has eroded essential knowledge and skills." (American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research: [The Millennials: The Dumbest Generation or the Next Great Generation?](#))

How would your students describe their generation?

Lesson Plans

- [Does Your Generation Have Too Much Self-Esteem?](#) (NYT Learning Network, June 3, 2010) A [Sunday Magazine article](#) ponders whether "millennials" — or those born between 1982 and 2002 — have been so "spoiled by parents who overstocked their self-esteem, teachers who granted undeserved A's and sports coaches who bestowed trophies on any player who showed up" that they won't be able to handle the demands of the working world, especially during a recession. What do you think? [MORE](#)
- [Fall Into the Gap: Considering Factors That Shape Generations](#) (NYT Learning Network, May 21, 2010) Overview | What events and trends both reflect and shape each generation? In this lesson, students compare their generation with one or more older generations and the reasons for differences between them. They generate defining events they have experienced and consider how those events have shaped who they are—and will become. They then interview a member of another generation about his or her own defining experiences. [MORE](#)
- [What Do Older Generations Misunderstand About Yours?](#) (NYT Learning Network, May 21, 2010) What misconceptions do you think older generations — such as your parents', teachers' or grandparents' — have about your generation? What do you wish you could explain to them to dispel some of these beliefs? How do you think the time and place in which those generations were raised have influenced them? How do you think you're being shaped differently by growing up today? [MORE](#)
- [What Era Do You Wish You Had Lived In?](#) (NYT Learning Network, May 18, 2010) In 1970, the country was experiencing such political turmoil that some colleges, including Boston University, canceled commencement. Yet those graduates have found that some students today long for the activism of the Sixties. If you had the opportunity to travel through time and live in (or at least visit) a different era, which would you choose and why? [MORE](#)

Links

- EducationPortal.com: [Study Shows 'Millennials' May Be the Most Educated Generation in History](#)
- The Chronicle of Higher Education: [The Millennial Muddle Teaching the Millennial Generation](#)
- The characteristics of the Millennial generation impact the teaching and learning process - Faculty Alliance for Creating and Enhancing Teaching Strategies: [The Millennial Generation](#)

Sports in Literature

Sports illuminate and transform a society. Sports change lives, affect politics, fuel our economy, and shape our culture. The American Dream is personified in our champions, in the records they set and the barriers they break. The dynamic interaction of athletes, fans, and the media produces inexplicable loyalties, lasting legends, and revered heroes. The greatest champions stand for more than the records they break. They stand for the barriers they shatter—physical, social, psychological, racial, cultural—and change the way we think about our world.

Sports are everywhere in America. And in the last century some of the most significant writers in America have found sports well worth writing about.

Football

Bleachers by John Grisham. “High school all-American Neely Crenshaw was probably the best quarterback ever to play for the legendary Messina Spartans. Fifteen years have gone by since those glory days, and Neely has come home to Messina to bury Coach Eddie Rake, the man who molded the Spartans into an unbeatable football dynasty. Now, as Coach Rake’s “boys” sit in the bleachers waiting for the dimming field lights to signal his passing, they replay the old games, relive the old glories, and try to decide once and for all whether they love Eddie Rake – or hate him. For Neely Crenshaw, a man who must finally forgive his coach – and himself – before he can get on with his life, the stakes are especially high.” ([John Grisham. The official site.](#))

- BestNotes Study Guide: [Bleachers](#)
- Barnes and Noble: [Information on the book and the author](#)

Baseball

The Natural by Bernard Malamud. The novel follows the career of baseball player Roy Hobbs from his first false start to his final failure. The story is divided into two parts, the first recounting an event during Roy’s nineteenth year, and the second picking up the story some fifteen years later. “The Natural, Bernard Malamud’s first novel, published in 1952, is also the first—and some would say still the best—novel ever written about baseball. In it Malamud, usually appreciated for his unerring portrayals of postwar Jewish life, took on very different material—the story of a superbly gifted “natural” at play in the fields of the old daylight baseball era—and invested it with the hardscrabble poetry, at once grand and altogether believable, that runs through all his best work.” ([Macmillian Publishers](#))

- SparkNotes: [The Natural](#)
- eNotes: [The Natural](#)

Basketball

Hoops by Walter Dean Myers. Seventeen-year-old Lonnie Jackson sees the city-wide basketball Tournament of Champions as a possible escape from Harlem, but fears the pressures that have sidelined his coach, Cal. (From [Scholastic](#)) Walter Dean Myers is one of the best known African-American writers in the field of young adult literature. Since the late 1970s, Myers has published more than two dozen novels. In the pages of his books Myers has tackled such pressing issues as teen pregnancy, crime, drug abuse, and gang violence, but he has also examined at length, the ties of family and friendship that exist in black communities everywhere.

- Reading Rockets: [A video interview with Walter Dean Myers](#)
- [Walter Dean Myers' Official Website](#)

Returning to the Soccermania: Books on Soccer and its Meaning

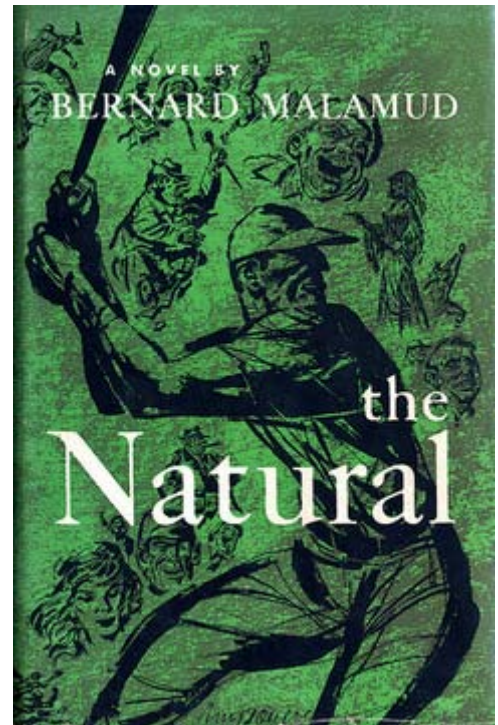
- **Soccerhead: An Accidental Journey Into the Heart of the American Game.** By Jim Haner (Farrar, 2006) As soccer’s popularity grows in the U.S., conventional wisdom holds that the game is a recent arrival, perhaps a product of globalization. Haner tells us that what we’re seeing is not new, but a reprise--and that soccer first blossomed during a much earlier phase of globalization: America’s early-twentieth-century flood of immigration. ([Book description](#))
- **How Soccer Explains the World: An Unlikely Theory of Globalization** by Franklin Foer (Harper Perennial, July 2005) An analysis of the interchange between soccer and the new global economy. “Soccer is much more than a game, or even a way of life. Foer believes that soccer “is a perfect window into the cross-currents of today’s world, with all its joys and its sorrows.” ([Book description](#))



© America.gov: [American Lives Slideshow](#)

More on Sports

America.gov Feature: [Baseball Goes Global.](#) Baseball is America’s game, a national obsession that remains largely North American, even though it bills its championship as the World Series.



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Young readers might enjoy these children’s books on soccer:

- ❖ **Shawn Sheep The Soccer Star.** Erin Mirabella (Author), Sarah Davis (Illustrator)
- ❖ **Winners Never Quit!** Mia Hamm (Author), Carol Thompson (Illustrator)
- ❖ **Soccer Cats #1: The Captain Contest.** Matt Christopher (Author), Dan Vasconcellos (Illustrator)



Landon Donovan © America.gov
[The Official Site of Landon Donovan](#)

In Focus – Ambassador Murphy’s Heroes

Our [Ambassador Philip Murphy](#) has introduced his heroes to the audiences during his town hall meetings. In this month’s edition we will focus one of the players of the U.S. Men’s National Soccer Team – **Landon Donovan**.

One of the elite U.S. players and a veteran of two FIFA World Cups, Donovan plays an integral role in the fortunes of the U.S. team. Possessing exceptional skills with both feet and great vision, he has a seemingly endless supply of energy and the ability to unhinge defenses with runs through the midfield. In an international career full of records and highlights, this campaign may prove his finest to date. Adding to his already impressive record book, Donovan became the USA’s leader in World Cup qualifying appearances (35) and goals (12), while setting a record for the most assists (10) in a calendar year. Still more impressive were his efforts in the FIFA Confederations Cup, where his three *ussoccer.com Man of the Match* performances against Italy and Brazil (twice) were punctuated by his clinical finish in the final. The Galaxy captain has been named the league’s Most Valuable Player of 2009. After signing a new four-year contract with MLS, he will begin 2010 on loan to English Premier League club Everton until March. [Official Website of the U.S. National Team](#)



Some of our favorite World Cup-related blogs, Web sites and resources: ESPN is running a [blog](#) of commentary, news and random tidbits. Learn about players and squads at [Worldcupblog.org](#) and its [USA-focused site](#). The NYT is [blogging about the hoopla](#) and the matches, posting reports and video. The Washington Post’s Steven Goff is keeping track of developments in his [“Soccer Insider.”](#)

- Earning his third U.S. Soccer Male Athlete of the Year award in 2009, he remains the only player to ever win the award in back-to-back years, in 2003 and 2004.
- In the final round of qualifying his talents were on full display, where he contributed to 12 of the USA’s 19 goals in the hexagonal
- Ended 2009 as the USA’s all-time leader in goals (42) and assists (42).
- Earned his 100th cap against Argentina in June 2008, becoming the fastest American to ever accomplish that feat and the fourth fastest player in history to reach the century mark for his country.
- Owns the record as the all-time leading scorer in the MLS Cup Playoffs with 17 goals.



America.gov: World Cup 2010 Democracy is Soccer?

[One filmmaker from Indonesia thinks so.](#) On the eve of the World Cup, share your thoughts in a discussion with Paul Teeple of A Ganar -- a cutting edge project that uses soccer and other team sports to teach employability skills like teamwork, communication, discipline, respect, and a focus on continual self-improvement.

Watch the video, explore the ideas below and tell us [what you think](#).

eJournal USA See You in the USA II



The May issue of *eJournal USA*, *See You in the USA II*, in [PDF](#) and [HTML](#) versions. Every year tens of millions of people visit the United States. They come to study, or for business, or for fun. But the best reason of all is to meet Americans.

The renowned journalist Edward R. Murrow once said, “The really crucial link in the international communication chain is the last three feet, which is bridged by personal contact — one person talking to another.”

[Download the PDF](#)

America.gov Feature: [SEE YOU in the USA](#)



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About the USA is a digital collection of background resources on American society, culture, and political processes. In addition to featuring selected websites, it provides access to documents in full text format (E-Texts) on topics ranging from the history of German-American relations, government and politics to travel, holidays and sports.

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