

Morocco advance to World Cup semi-finals

12th December, 2022



The 2022 World Cup is continuing to produce shock results. The latest is Morocco's defeat of European powerhouse Portugal. Youssef En Nesyri's soaring 42nd-minute header saw Morocco advance to the semi-finals. In so doing, they become the first African or Arab nation to get to the last four. Many soccer pundits argue the 1-0 result was not a shock. Morocco are only one of three teams not to have lost in the competition. They have also conceded just one goal. They defeated one of the pre-tournament favourites, Belgium, at the group stage, and then eliminated former World champions Spain in an earlier knockout stage. Their performances have been full of grit, attacking flair and determined defending.

Dubbed the Atlas Lions, Morocco look forward to opponents France in their semi-final on December the 14th. They are one game away from a historic appearance in the final. Their win against Portugal ignited an outpouring of joy and raucous celebrations throughout Morocco and the Moroccan diaspora across Africa. So momentous was the win that at the final whistle, congratulations from world leaders flooded social media. The ruler of Dubai tweeted: "It was an unprecedented victory for Arab football." Somalia's president tweeted: "This is testimony that Africa is rising and we are a force to be reckoned with." Morocco coach Walid Regragui said his team would, "write history for Africa".

Sources: [aljazeera.com](https://www.aljazeera.com) / [moroccoworldnews.com](https://www.moroccoworldnews.com) / [espn.com](https://www.espn.com)

Writing

The World Cup is the greatest show in Earth. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

World Cup / shock / results / defeat / powerhouse / pundits / tournament / flair / opponent / final / win / celebrations / diaspora / congratulations / testimony / Africa

True / False

- 1) The article says Morocco's win is the biggest World Cup shock so far. T / F
- 2) Morocco is the second African nation ever to reach the semi-finals. T / F
- 3) Morocco let in just one goal in the earlier stages of this tournament. T / F
- 4) The article says Morocco have showed grit and determination. T / F
- 5) The Morocco team is nicknamed the Sahara Lions. T / F
- 6) The Moroccan diaspora celebrated all across Africa. T / F
- 7) Dubai's ruler described Morocco's win as being "unprecedented". T / F
- 8) Somalia's president tweeted that Morocco is rising. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

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|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. shock | a. nicknamed |
| 2. defeat | b. let in |
| 3. pundits | c. evidence |
| 4. conceded | d. noisy |
| 5. flair | e. loss |
| 6. dubbed | f. style |
| 7. raucous | g. experts |
| 8. momentous | h. taken into account |
| 9. reckoned with | i. upset |
| 10. testimony | j. significant |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What's the best game of football you've ever seen?
- c) How good at football is your national team?
- d) Is the word 'football' or 'soccer' best?
- e) What good does football do in the world?
- f) Will Morocco write history for Africa?
- g) What three adjectives best describe football?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Morocco's players?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. The 2022 World Cup is continuing to produce | a. in the final |
| 2. soccer | b. is rising |
| 3. They have also conceded | c. grit |
| 4. eliminated former | d. pundits |
| 5. Their performances have been full of | e. an outpouring of joy |
| 6. a historic appearance | f. just one goal |
| 7. Their win against Portugal ignited | g. shock results |
| 8. raucous | h. whistle |
| 9. at the final | i. world champions Spain |
| 10. testimony that Africa | j. celebrations |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of the World Cup?
- Is the soccer World Cup the greatest show on Earth?
- What do you think of Morocco being in the semi-finals?
- Why is the World Cup so popular?
- What do you think of the World Cup being held in Qatar?
- Is Morocco's victory against Portugal a shock?
- What do you think of the 2022 World Cup finals?
- What advice do you have for the Moroccan players?

Spelling

- Morocco's eefdat of European powerhouse
- soccer itdupns
- reach the quarter-finals stage audednfeet
- They have also ececnodd just one goal
- eiltnidmea former world champions
- attacking arfil
- bebdud the Atlas Lions
- a historic peecapanar in the final
- rsacuuo celebrations
- the Moroccan odrpaisa across Africa
- an rentncdeeeupd victory
- This is tymeisont that Africa is rising

Answers – Synonym Match

1. i	2. e	3. g	4. b	5. f
6. a	7. d	8. j	9. h	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Goalkeeper

You think being a goalkeeper is the best position in football. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their positions. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): defender, midfielder or forward.

Role B – Defender

You think being a defender is the best position in football. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their positions. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): goalkeeper, midfielder or forward.

Role C – Midfielder

You think being a midfielder is the best position in football. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their positions. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): defender, goalkeeper or forward.

Role D – Forward / Attacker

You think being a forward is the best position in football. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their positions. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): defender, midfielder or goalkeeper.

Speaking – Football Roles

Rank these with your partner. Put the best roles at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| • Coach / Manager | • Midfielder |
| • Goalkeeper | • Winger |
| • Defender | • Forward |
| • Central defender | • Substitute |

Answers – True False

1 F	2 F	3 T	4 T	5 F	6 T	7 T	8 F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.