

# World cup history



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The ICC Cricket World Cup is the premier international championship of men's One Day International (ODI) cricket. The event is organised by the sport's governing body, the International Cricket Council (ICC), with preliminary qualification rounds leading up to a finals tournament which is held every four years. The tournament is the world's fourth largest and most viewed sporting event. [1][2][2] According to the ICC, it is the most important tournament and the pinnacle of achievement in the sport. 3][4] The first Cricket World Cup contest was organised in England in 1975. A separate Women's Cricket World Cup has been held every four years since 1973. The finals of the Cricket World Cup are contested by all ten Test-playing and ODI-playing nations, together with other nations that qualify through the World Cup Qualifier . Australia has been the most successful of the five teams to have won the tournament, taking four titles. The West Indies have won twice, while Pakistan , India, and Sri Lanka have each won once.

The 2007 Cricket World Cup matches were held between 13 March and 28 April 2007, in the West Indies . The 2007 tournament had sixteen teams competing in a pool stage (played in round-robin format), then a " super 8" stage, followed by semi-finals and a final. Australia defeated Sri Lanka in the final to retain the championship. The 2011 Cricket World Cup will be held between 19 February and 2 April 2011. The tournament will be co-hosted by Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka .

There are 14 countries that are participating in the tournament. History Main article: History of the Cricket World Cup Before the first Cricket World Cup The first ever international cricket match was played between Canada and

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the United States, on the 24 and 25 September 1844. However, the first credited Test match was played in 1877 between Australia and England, and the two teams competed regularly for The Ashes in subsequent years. South Africa was admitted to Test status in 1889. [5] Representative cricket teams were selected to tour each other, resulting in bilateral competition. Cricket was also included as an Olympic sport at the 1900 Paris Games, where Great Britain defeated France to win the gold medal. [6] This was the only appearance of cricket at the Summer Olympics. The first multilateral competition at international level was the 1912 Triangular Tournament, a Test cricket tournament played in England between all three Test-playing nations at the time: England,

Australia and South Africa. The event was not a success: the summer was exceptionally wet, making play difficult on damp uncovered pitches, and attendances were poor, attributed to a "surfeit of cricket". [7] In subsequent years, international Test cricket has been generally organised as bilateral series: a multilateral Test tournament was not organised again until the quadrangular Asian Test Championship in 1999.

The number of nations playing Test cricket increased gradually over the years, with the addition of West Indies in 1928, New Zealand in 1930, India in 1932, and Pakistan in 1952, but international cricket continued to be played as bilateral Test matches over three, four or five days. In the early 1960s, English county cricket teams began playing a shortened version of cricket which only lasted for one day. Starting in 1962 with a four-team knockout competition known as the Midlands Knock-Out Cup, [8] and continuing with

the inaugural Gillette Cup in 1963, one-day cricket grew in popularity in England.

A national Sunday League was formed in 1969. The first One-Day International event was played on the fifth day of a rain-aborted Test match between England and Australia at Melbourne in 1971, to fill the time available and as compensation for the frustrated crowd. It was a forty over match with eight balls per over. [9] The success and popularity of the domestic one- day competitions in England and other parts of the world, as well as the early One-Day Internationals, prompted the ICC to consider organising a Cricket World Cup. [10]