



Come on England!

Euro 2020 (2021)

England are taking part in the hotly-anticipated UEFA Euro 2020 football tournament in June and July of 2021.

Euro 2020

This special Euro 2020 event was planned to mark the 60th anniversary of the tournament but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Rather than being held in one host city, this pan-European tournament will take place in 11 different locations. The capacity of many of these stadiums was reduced to allow for greater social distancing.

The Road to the Euros

The England team were painfully close to tasting glory in 2018 when they reached the semi-final stage of the World Cup and fans are hopeful that the Three Lions can progress even further in this tournament. England qualified for the Euros in 2019 as winners of their group: they won all but one of their eight games. The team racked up an impressive 37 goals in total including a 7-0 win against Montenegro.

The 24 qualifying teams were split into six groups for the initial group stage of the tournament. England were drawn in Group D and played against Croatia, Czech Republic and neighbouring Scotland. England won all of their knockout games to progress to the final of the tournament. Here are the results:

England's Top Performers

The England squad will comprise the cream of the crop of the nation's footballing talent; the team's manager, Gareth Southgate, named his provisional squad following the end of the 2021 Premier League season. Among those that have been called up to play for their country and are hoping to earn a place in the starting 11 include:

Harry Kane

As England's captain and the Premier League's most prolific goalscorer, Harry Kane scored 12 goals for his team in the qualifying matches. He has been playing for his country since 2015.

Phil Foden

Phil Foden was a child prodigy; he began playing for Manchester City's youth team when he was eight years old and, at 17, he was the youngest player to play in the Champions League. The young midfielder has become known for his nimble footwork and impressive control of the ball.

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Group Stage				
 England	1	VS	0	Croatia 
 England	0	VS	0	Scotland 
 Czech Republic	0	VS	1	England 
Round of 16				
 England	2	VS	0	Germany 
Quarter-final				
 Ukraine	0	VS	4	England 
Semi-final				
 England	2	VS	1	Denmark 
Final				
Sunday 11 th July 8 p.m.				
 England		VS		Italy 

Raheem Sterling

Raheem Sterling was a key player in the 2018 World Cup matches and is still considered one of England's best forwards.

Marcus Rashford

Marcus Rashford is a hard-working forward who has played for his country over 40 times. Off the football field, Marcus has been honoured by The Queen for his services to vulnerable children in the UK during COVID-19.

Come on England!

Often referred to as 'the beautiful game', football is one of England's most treasured sports and international games are known to conjure a great deal of excitement among fans. As well as donning replica shirts, fans often decorate their homes and gardens with flags during national football tournaments. In the past, fans have flocked to pubs, bars and other large

venues to watch the game and cheer on their team alongside fellow fans.

England's dedicated fan base includes The England Band: a small group of brass players who follow the team around the world playing rousing tunes to fire up fans during their games.

Notable Euro Moments

Euro 1996

Paul Gascoigne, known to many fans as 'Gazza', scored a famous goal against Scotland before lying on the floor while members of his team squirted him with water in a hilarious celebration which became known as 'The Dentist's Chair'.

Later that same tournament, Gareth Southgate (England's current manager) missed a crucial penalty during the semi-finals against Germany; this miss cost the Three Lions the Euros. The Prime Minister at the time - John Major - even met with Gareth outside the stadium to console him with a hug!

Euro 2004

Newcomer, Wayne Rooney, scored four goals and helped England to reach the quarter-finals of the tournament. At only 18 years old, Wayne went on to become England's captain and their top goalscorer of all time.



Questions

1. How many of their qualifying games did England win? Tick one.

- eight
- seven
- one
- 37

2. Which England player was honoured by The Queen? Tick one.

- Phil Foden
- Marcus Rashford
- Harry Kane
- Raheem Sterling

3. Find and copy one word which means that the Euro 2020 tournament involves all or most of the nations of Europe.

4. Give **two** examples from the text of the ways that England fans often celebrate international football tournaments.

- _____
- _____

5. Who is England's captain?

6. Look at the section called **The Road to the Euros**.

Explain why you think that the table has been included in the text.

7. How do you think Gareth Southgate may have felt after missing a crucial penalty for England in Euro 1996?

8. ... **the team's manager, Gareth Southgate, named his provisional squad following the end of the 2021 Premier League season.**

Explain what you think the word 'provisional' means.

9. **In the past, fans have flocked to pubs, bars and other large venues to watch the game and cheer on their team alongside fellow fans.**

Discuss how fans may choose to celebrate the tournament in 2021 by taking into consideration social distancing.

10. How are the Euros similar to another famous sporting event?
