

The **2022 FIFA World Cup final** was the final match of the [2022 FIFA World Cup](#), the 22nd edition of FIFA's competition for [men's national football teams](#). The match was played at [Lusail Stadium](#) in [Lusail](#), Qatar, on 18 December 2022, [the Qatari National Day](#), and was contested by [Argentina](#) and defending champions [France](#). With a record 1.5 billion people watching on television, the final became one of the most widely watched televised sporting events in history.<sup>[3]</sup>

The tournament comprised hosts [Qatar](#) and 31 other teams who emerged victorious from [the qualification phase](#), organised by the six [FIFA confederations](#). The 32 teams competed in a group stage, from which 16 teams qualified for [the knockout stage](#). En route to the final, Argentina finished first in [Group C](#), first losing to Saudi Arabia 2–1, then defeating both [Mexico](#) and [Poland](#) 2–0. They then beat [Australia](#) 2–1 in the round of 16, the [Netherlands](#) in the quarter-final through a [penalty shoot-out](#) after it ended 2–2 in extra time, and [Croatia](#) in the semi-final 3–0. France finished first in [Group D](#) with two wins and one loss (4–1 win over [Australia](#), 2–1 win over [Denmark](#), and a 1–0 loss to [Tunisia](#)), defeating Poland 3–1 in the round of 16, [England](#) 2–1 in the quarter-final, and [Morocco](#) 2–0 in the semi-final. The final took place in front of 88,966 spectators and was refereed by [Szymon Marciniak](#).

Argentina took the lead through a [penalty](#) by [Lionel Messi](#) in the 23rd minute before [Ángel Di María](#) further increased their lead in the 36th minute with a low shot into the corner of the goal after a sweeping Argentina counterattack. France failed to register a shot at the goal for the vast majority of the match until a 97-second brace by [Kylian Mbappé](#) tied the game 2–2 in the 81st minute. During [extra time](#), Messi then scored again to give Argentina a 3–2 lead. However, Mbappé scored a second penalty to tie the game 3–3 with just a few minutes remaining, becoming the second man to score a [hat-trick](#) in a World Cup final after [Geoff Hurst](#) in [1966](#). Argentina then won the ensuing penalty shoot-out 4–2 to win their third World Cup, and first since [1986](#).

It was the second time that Argentina reached the World Cup final after losing their opening match (the other occasion being in [1990](#)), a feat three other teams have achieved ([West Germany](#) in [1982](#), [Italy](#) in [1994](#), and [Spain](#) in [2010](#)); it was only the second time in history that a team went on to win the tournament after losing their opening match (following Spain in 2010). France became the first team in history to score three goals in a World Cup final and lose. Messi was named the [man of the match](#) and won the [Golden Ball](#) as FIFA's best player of the tournament.

The match was ranked by the football media and fans alike as one of the greatest [World Cup finals](#), and one of the greatest football matches in the history of the sport.<sup>[4][5]</sup>