

**2015 Cricket World Cup**  
February 14th to March 29th, 2015



The 11th Cricket World Cup is being played right now in Australia and New Zealand. Cool, eh?

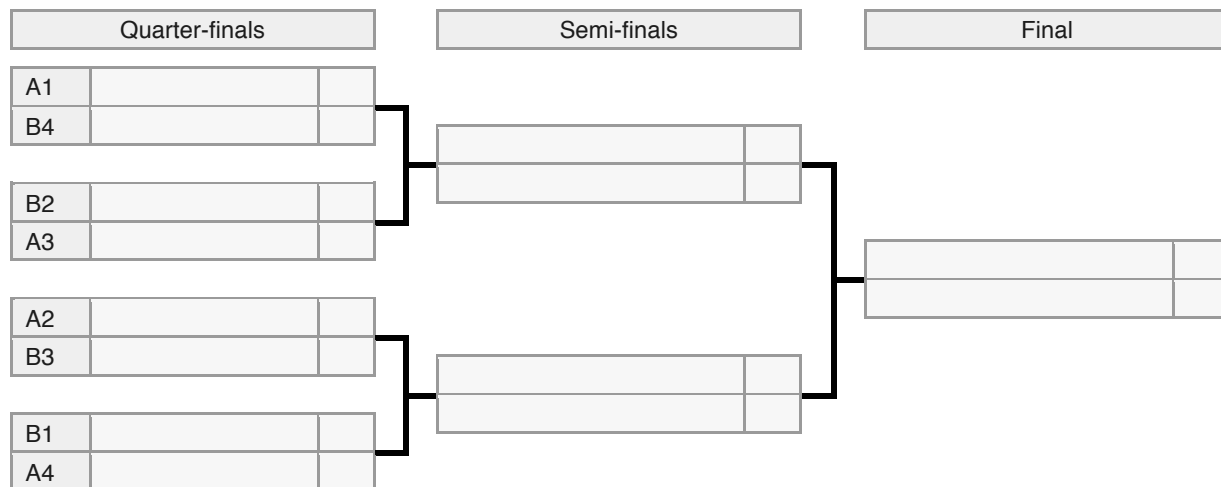
1. What's Cricket? To answer this question as best that you can, you should watch the two YouTube videos on the Cricket post of Yummymath.com. Then do your best to explain the game.

There will be 14 teams playing in the 2015 Cricket World Cup. Those 14 teams are divided into 2 groups of 7 squads. In the Group round each of the 7 squads play each other.

2. How many matches will that be? Show your figuring with a diagram, list, or a calculation.

After the Group play, the top 4 scoring teams from each Group will move on to the Quarter Finals round where squads from Group A will be matched against squads from Group B. The top 4 squads from each group are assigned a place in the ranking. The highest-ranking team from Group A will be team A1.

3. Study the mapping of play scheduled for those last 8 squads in the quarterfinals rounds below. Explain what you believe is the logic for which squads will compete against each other in this round.

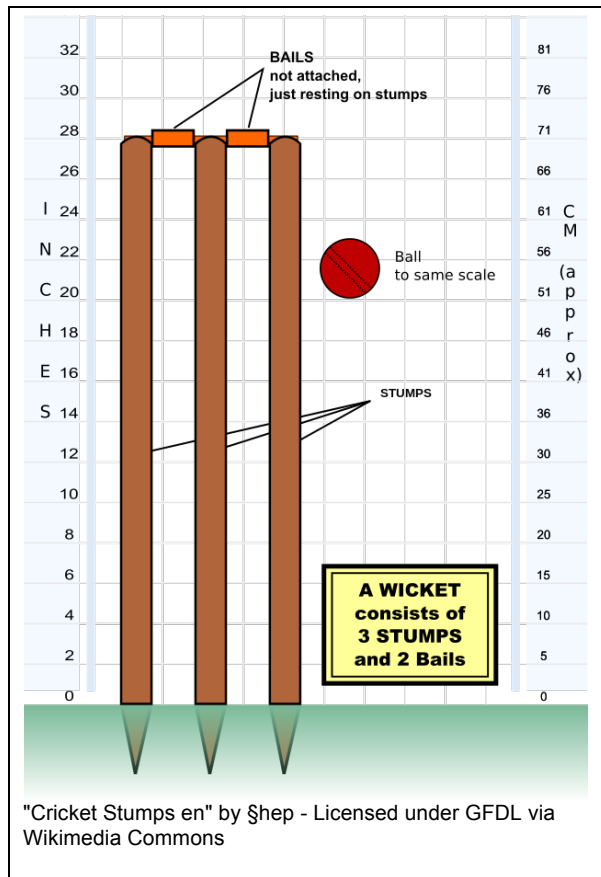


4. Do some research and come to class with any rankings in the above chart (as far as you can) filled in with teams and/or scores once their Group ranking has been determined. Did the teams that you expected to make it into the quarterfinals make it?

5. Below are the teams listed from each country and their present rankings. How do you believe they were assigned to Group A or B? Does this seem fair?

Team	Rank	Group
England 	1	A
South Africa 	2	B
India 	3	B
Australia 	4	A
Sri Lanka 	5	A
Pakistan 	6	B
West Indies 	7	B
Bangladesh 	8	A
New Zealand 	9	A
Zimbabwe 	10	B
Ireland 	11	B
Afghanistan 	12	A
Scotland 	13	A
United Arab Emirates 	14	B

We love this picture from Wikipedia that shows the structure of a wicket.



When a player is at bat, not only does he try to hit the ball but he also has to guard the wicket (which is behind him) from being toppled by the pitch. Then as he runs back and forth across the pitch he needs to guard his wicket from any fielder throwing the ball and knocking over his wicket. The bail pieces of the wicket are not affixed to the stumps. So the wicket is easy to topple.

6. Do you think that this hitting, running, and guarding is hard to do and/or fun? Please explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. The group play in this tournament is very different from the sudden death tournament style of the NCAA College Basket Ball Tournament and the NFL Playoffs. Who do you think this kind of group play benefits, the favorites or the underdogs? Why?

Sources: <sup>1</sup> <http://www.playcricket.com.au/what-is-cricket/how-to-play>  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cricket>  
<http://www.icc-cricket.com/cricket-world-cup>

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