

Golden Generations Spain 2008 - 2012



1) Discussion

- a) Who are your favourite international teams?
 - b) Has your country had any successful periods?
 - c) Who are your favourite Spanish teams?
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2) Vocabulary

a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

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|------------------------------|---|
| 1) Unprecedented (adjective) | a) Without any problems or breaks. |
| 2) Channel (noun) | b) Very important for the final result; able to decide something. |
| 3) Decisive (adjective) | c) Paths or ways to move something from one place to another. |
| 4) Refined (adjective) | d) To carry out or do something as planned. |
| 5) Seamlessly (adverb) | e) Improved to be more precise or polished. |
| 6) To execute (verb) | f) Never done or known before. |
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b) Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words from exercise 2a.

Unprecedented

Channel

Decisive

Refined

Seamlessly

To Execute

- 1) Mario Götze's goal in the 2014 World Cup final was _____, securing Germany's fourth World Cup title.
- 2) Under Pep Guardiola, Manchester City's playing style became more _____, with precise passing and movement.
- 3) In 1999, Manchester United won an _____ treble, something that was a first in English football.
- 4) Jürgen Klopp's Liverpool team learned _____ his high-pressing strategy, leading them to a Champions League win in 2019.
- 5) Tiki-taka is possession based football with passing through different _____ on the pitch.
- 6) Fernando Torres adapted _____ to English football, scoring 33 goals in his first season.



3) Quick Read - Read the article quickly and answer the question.

a) What trophies did Spain win between 2008 and 2012?

Spain's Golden Era

Between 2008 and 2012, Spain's national football team experienced a golden era, achieving unprecedented success on the international stage. This period began with their victory at the UEFA Euro 2008, under the guidance of coach Luis Aragonés. Spain triumphed by defeating Germany 1-0 in the final, thanks to a goal from Fernando Torres. The team showcased a brand of football known as "tiki-taka," characterised by short passing and movement, maintaining possession, and working the ball through various channels.

Key players included captain Iker Casillas in goal, who provided a steady presence. The defence was marshalled by Carles Puyol and Sergio Ramos, while the midfield was dominated by the duo of Xavi Hernández and Andrés Iniesta, who were instrumental in controlling the tempo of the game. Up front, David Villa and Fernando Torres provided the necessary firepower.

Spain's success continued at the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa, where they claimed their first-ever World Cup title. Now under the management of Vicente del Bosque, Spain once again displayed their tiki-taka style. They defeated the Netherlands 1-0 in the final, with Andrés Iniesta scoring the decisive goal in extra time. The squad kept its core of key players, including Casillas, Puyol, Xavi, and Iniesta, but also featured crucial contributions from Gerard Piqué and Sergio Busquets.

In 2012, Spain defended their European Championship title, cementing their dominance in world football. Vicente del Bosque's side demonstrated an even more refined version of their possession-based play. In the final, Spain crushed Italy 4-0, with goals from David Silva, Jordi Alba, Fernando Torres, and Juan Mata. This triumph made Spain the first team to win three consecutive major international tournaments.

FC Barcelona had a significant influence on the national team, with many of its players forming the backbone of the squad. The understanding and chemistry developed at club level under coach Pep Guardiola translated seamlessly to the national team, allowing Spain to execute their distinctive playing style effectively.

Spain's golden generation, characterised by technical brilliance, tactical intelligence, and an unwavering winning mentality, has left an indelible mark on the history of international football.



4) Discussion

- a) What are your thoughts on Spain's team between 2008-2012?
- b) Who do you think was the most important player for this team?
- c) How does Spain's 2008-2012 team compare to their team today?

