

# Great Football Cities: Riyadh



## 1) Discussion

- a) What do you know about football in the Middle East?
  - b) Can you think of any big Saudi Arabian teams and players?
  - c) Have you ever visited Saudi Arabia? How was it? If not, would you like to?
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## 2) Vocabulary

### a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

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|---|---|
| 1) Bustling (adjective)                 | a) To be the most powerful, influential, or successful in a particular field or activity. |
| 2) To dominate (verb)                   | b) With enthusiasm or keen interest.  |
| 3) A force to be reckoned with (phrase) | c) To care for and encourage the growth or development of something or someone.           |
| 4) To nurture (verb)                    | d) To expect or look forward to something happening.                                      |
| 5) Eagerly (adverb)                     | e) Something or someone that is powerful and cannot be ignored or underestimated.         |
| 6) To anticipate (verb)                 | f) Busy and full of activity.   |
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**b) Complete the sentences with the vocabulary from exercise 2a.**

Bustling

To dominate

A force to be reckoned with

To nurture

Eagerly

To Anticipate

- 1) Football clubs often invest in youth academies to \_\_\_\_\_ young talent and develop them into future stars of the sport.
- 2) Manchester City is undoubtedly a \_\_\_\_\_ in the football world.
- 3) Fans around the globe \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ the start of the FIFA World Cup, eagerly counting down the days until the tournament begins.
- 4) Brazil has historically \_\_\_\_\_ the world of football, producing some of the greatest players of all time.
- 5) The stadium was \_\_\_\_\_ with excited fans eagerly awaiting the kickoff of the World Cup final.



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

a) What are the 4 main teams in Riyadh?

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#### **Football in Riyadh**

In the bustling city of Riyadh, football is a big deal. It's not just a game but a passion that brings people together. Let's take a closer look at some of the key teams, players, and the enthusiasm of the fans in Riyadh.

Two major teams dominate the football scene in Riyadh: Al Hilal and Al Nassr. Al Hilal, formed in 1957, has a strong history of winning both in Saudi Arabia and abroad. Players like Neymar, Aleksandar Mitrović and Rúben Neves make Al Hilal a force to be reckoned with. Al Nassr, on the other hand, founded in 1955, is a fierce rival to Al Hilal. With stars like Ronaldo, Sadio Mané and Aymeric Laporte, Al Nassr competes fiercely and has a large fan base.

Aside from these two giants, other teams like Al Shabab and Al Ahli also have significant followings. Al Shabab, established in 1947, focuses on nurturing local talent. Al Ahli, founded in 1937, also has players from different countries, such as Roberto Firmino and Gabri Veiga.

The fans in Riyadh are incredibly passionate. Whether their team wins or loses, they show their support with full hearts. When Al Hilal and Al Nassr face off, the atmosphere in the stadiums becomes electric. Fans dress in their team's colours and cheer loudly, making every match an unforgettable experience.

The rivalries between these clubs add to the excitement. Matches between Al Hilal and Al Nassr or Al Shabab and Al Ahli are intense and eagerly anticipated by fans.

In Riyadh, football is more than just a sport; it's a celebration of unity, passion, and the joy of competition that brings communities together.



## 4) Discussion

- a) What are your thoughts of Riyadh? Would you like to visit the city?
- b) Which of the teams have you heard of? Can you name any players who play for these teams?
- c) Do you think more foreign players will go to play in Saudi Arabia in the next few years?

