

# Maradona and

A mini Argentinian magician who dazzled defenders and thrilled fans. Sound familiar? No, it's not Lionel Messi – it's Diego Maradona!

### 1. REACHING GREATNESS

Who is the greatest footballer of all time? Is it **Lionel Messi** or **Cristiano Ronaldo**? Or a name from the past such as **Johan Cruyff**, **George Best** or Brazilian superstar **Pelé**? Many people think it's a player who scored his most famous goal not with his foot or with his head but with his hand!

**Diego Maradona**, like Messi, is an Argentinian who played for **Barcelona** in Spain. He also played for **Napoli** in Italy, where he became a hero after winning two league titles. But Maradona often got into trouble on and off the pitch, and he became a controversial character.



### 2. HELPING HAND

Maradona is most famous for his performance at the **1986 World Cup** in Mexico, and particularly the quarter-final match between **Argentina** and **England**. Running on to a miskicked clearance, Maradona outjumped England goalkeeper **Peter Shilton** and punched the ball into the back of the

net with his left hand! The England players complained, but the referee thought Maradona had used his head so allowed the goal. Maradona cheekily said the goal was scored "a little with the head of Maradona and a little with the hand of God". It became known as the "Hand of God" goal.

# ...d the Hand of God



## 4. GENIUS OR CHEAT?

When watching videos of the "Hand of God" goal and the "Goal of the Century", it's easy to see why some people think Maradona is a cheat and some people think he is a genius. Perhaps he's both! And Maradona is not the only football legend to have scored a goal with his hand. Messi scored with his left hand for Barcelona against Espanyol in 2007!



## SUPERSTAR STATS

How do the careers of these legends stack up?

	Goals Scored	Games Played	Domestic League Titles	World Cups	Goals Scored With Hand
Maradona	346	582	3	1	1
Pelé	757	786	7	3	0
Messi	487	585	10	0	1
Ronaldo	507	702	6	0	0

## 3. TWISTS AND TURNS

Five minutes later, Maradona scored one of the best goals ever seen at a World Cup. He picked up the ball in his own half, then twisted and turned past five English players before coolly slotting the ball past Shilton. This brilliant individual strike was later named FIFA's "Goal of the Century". Match of the Day's Gary Lineker pulled a goal back for England, but Argentina won 2-1, and they went on to win the World Cup, with Maradona lifting the trophy as captain.

