

GRAPHIC  
BIOGRAPHY

# Michael Jackson





Michael Jackson, the King of Pop, was the most successful entertainer of all time. He won 13 Grammy Awards and 26 American Music Awards. He had 13 *Billboard* "Hot 100" number-one singles.



Michael Joseph Jackson was born in Gary, Indiana, on August 29, 1958.



He was the eighth of 10 children. His father, Joe, was a steelworker. His mother, Katherine, managed the household.

Michael had three sisters, Rebbie, La Toya, and Janet.



Janet, let's put on your coat.

Michael also had six brothers, Jackie, Tito, Jermaine, Marlon, Brandon (who died before Michael was born), and Randy.



Michael, hurry! We're late for school.

Joe Jackson loved music. He played guitar in a band called the Falcons. But he couldn't support his large family playing music.



Take it again from the top.

When Michael was five, Joe created the singing group the Jackson Brothers. The group included Jackie, Tito, Jermaine, Marlon, and Michael. Michael played the tambourine and drums.



Joe was very strict. He made his boys play over and over again after school.



*Ooh, I bet you're wondering how I knew  
About you're plans to make me blue...*



In 1966 both Michael and Jermaine sang lead vocals. The group became known as the Jackson 5. They signed a recording contract with Steeltown Records in 1967.





Barry Gordy, of Motown Records, saw the Jackson's audition tape.



Who are those boys?

In 1968 the brothers signed with Motown Records. Michael became the lead singer.



I am proud to introduce the Jackson 5.

Their first album, *Diana Ross Presents the Jackson 5*, was an instant hit. "I Want You Back" went to number one.



We have a number-one hit!

Jacksonmania was sweeping the nation.



Jermaine, Jermaine!

Michael, can we have your autograph?

"ABC" was first heard on *American Bandstand* in February 1970. It knocked the Beatles song "Let It Be" from number one.



I'm going to buy that record.

"The Love You Save" was number one for two weeks that summer.



This is nuts!

Just call my name and I'll be there...



"I'll Be There" was the Jackson 5's fourth hit in a row. Michael and Jermaine shared lead vocals.

Joe Jackson was able to move the family to Los Angeles in 1970. The group was very popular. There were coloring books, stickers, and a Saturday morning cartoon.



Motown knew that they had a star in Michael. In 1971 he released his first solo single "Got to Be There." His solo album sold over 5 million copies.



Let's get him back in the recording studio, pronto!

The single "Ben" from Michael's second solo album was nominated for an Academy Award. It won a Golden Globe.



And the winner for best song is...



And here's Michael Jackson singing "Ben."

Michael and Jermaine had solo careers. But the brothers continued to record. After 1972, the group's albums were not as successful.



Marlon

Tito

Jackie

Jermaine

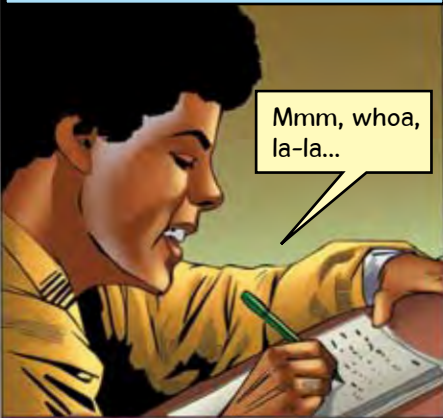
Michael

Joe Jackson was convinced that Motown was doing a bad job. He began to look for a new record company. In 1975 the Jackson 5 became the Jacksons. They signed with Epic Records, which was owned by CBS.

To promote the Jacksons, CBS signed the entire family to star in a variety show. The show would compete with ABC's *Donny & Marie*. It ran for almost a year and included Michael, Marlon, Tito, Jackie, Randy, Rebbie, La Toya, and Janet.

Michael became the lead songwriter for the Jacksons. He wrote "Shake Your Body (Down to the Ground)," "This Place Hotel," and "Can You Feel It."

Jackson starred in the movie musical *The Wiz* as the Scarecrow. Quincy Jones arranged the movie's score. But it flopped at the box office.



Mmm, whoa, la-la...



This movie stinks.

Michael teamed up with Quincy Jones who produced *Off the Wall*. When he finished recording, he fired his father as his manager.

*Off the Wall* was a huge hit. Michael won a Grammy Award. The single "Don't Stop 'til You Get Enough" went platinum (over 1 million sold).



Keep on with the force don't stop  
Don't stop 'til you get enough...



Just before Christmas in 1982, *Thriller* was released. Seven of the album's songs reached the top 10.



*Thriller* sold 110 million copies worldwide. It won a record-breaking eight Grammy Awards.



Jackson turned the music video into art with special effects, famous celebrities, and complex dancing.



*It's close to midnight and something evil's lurking in the dark  
Under the moonlight, you see a sight  
that almost stops your heart...*

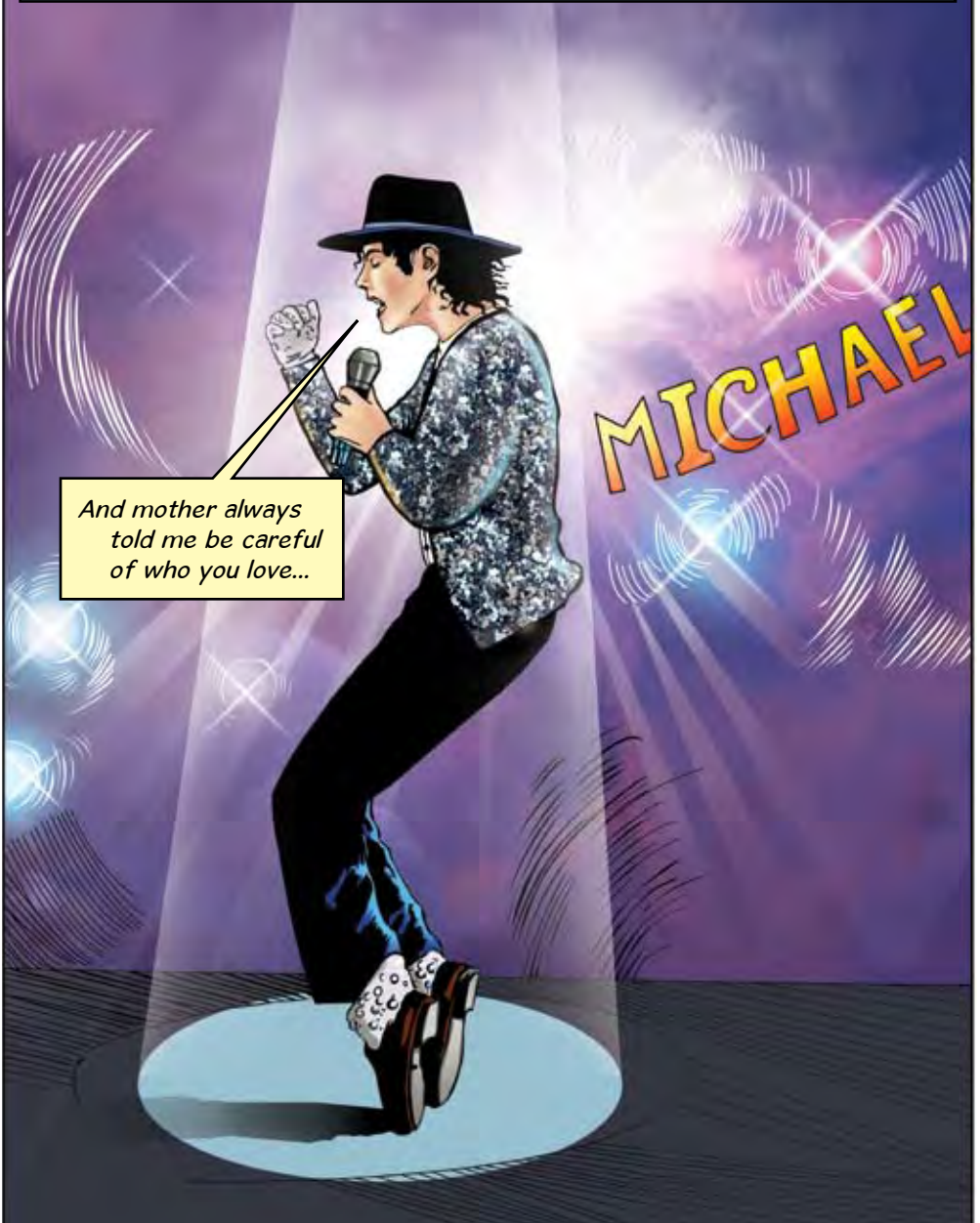


With the release of *Thriller*, Michael became the most popular African-American artist ever. He met President Ronald Reagan at the White House.



The *New York Times* wrote that "in the world of pop music, there is Michael Jackson and there is everybody else."

In 1983 the Jackson 5 reunited in a TV special to celebrate Motown's 25 years. They sang some of their greatest hits. Then, Michael sang "Billie Jean." He performed the "Moonwalk" dance move for the first time.

An illustration of Michael Jackson performing the Moonwalk. He is wearing a black fedora, a silver rhinestone-covered jacket, black pants, and white shoes with black and white patterns. He is holding a microphone and has a rhinestone-covered glove on his right hand. The background is a purple and blue stage with a spotlight on him. The word "MICHAEL" is written in large, colorful letters on the right side of the stage.

*And mother always  
told me be careful  
of who you love...*

For the first time, Michael wore a rhinestone-covered glove. It became his signature look. His performance brought down the house.