

Valentino Rossi



► **Born:** February 16, 1979, *Urbino, Italy*. First jumps on bike at age two

► **1997:** Wins first world title, in 125cc class, on *Aprilia* bike

► **1999:** Wins **250cc** championship in only second season in class

► **2001:** World champion in 500cc class for *Honda*, winning 11 races

► **2002:** World champion in newly created *MotoGP* class – using powerful four-stroke 989cc engines

► **2003-05:** Moves to Yamaha, retaining title for next three years

► **2006:** Could claim eighth World Championship in final race in Valencia

► **2007:** Stays with Yamaha as MotoGP enters new era of 800cc racing