

King of Pop reaches 50



■ **1958:** *Michael Jackson* born in Gary, Indiana, seventh of nine children

■ **1964:** Age 6, joins older brothers in *The Jackson 5*; lead vocalist at age 8

■ **1968:** Signed to Motown Records, first four singles all reach number one

■ **1982:** Solo album, *Thriller*, released. Becomes best-selling album of all time, with world sales of up to 104m copies

■ **1988:** Builds *Neverland* ranch near Santa Ynez, California

■ **1993:** Accused of child sex abuse. Case dropped for lack of evidence but Jackson settles out of court for \$22m

■ **1996-97:** Performs to over 4.5m fans in 58 cities on *HIStory World Tour*

■ **2001:** Appears with his brothers for first time since 1984 at special concert marking 30 years as solo artist

■ **2005:** Acquitted on fresh charges of child molestation after five-month trial

Achievements include 13 Grammys and global record sales of over 750m