

Pop icon who thrilled the world

1958 August 29: **Michael Joseph Jackson** born in Gary, Indiana. Seventh of nine children. Brothers, **Sigmund "Jackie", Toriano "Tito", Jermaine, Marlon, Steven "Randy"**; sisters, **Rebbie, Janet** and **La Toya**

1962 Michael joins family pop group **The Jackson 5**, with Jackie, Tito, Marlon, and Jermaine

1968 10-year-old Michael and his brothers sign contract with **Motown** records

1969 Debut single **I Want You Back** hits number one

1970 Jackson 5 becomes first group in pop history to have their first four singles top the U.S. charts

1972 Jackson has first solo U.S. number one single **Ben** – title song from children's thriller about gang of homicidal rats

1976 Solo career loses momentum – signs with his brothers to **Epic** as the **Jacksons**

1977 Singer lands starring role as a scarecrow in all-black film musical **The Wiz**, a retelling of **The Wizard of Oz**. Movie is box office disaster but Jackson meets music impresario **Quincy Jones**

1979 With Jones producing, Jackson records his first solo album, **Off The Wall**. Album goes on to sell over seven million copies



1982 In Quincy Jones-produced **Thriller**, Jackson duets with **Paul McCartney**, brings in guitarist **Eddie Van Halen** for jaw-dropping solo, and **Vincent Price** for a creepy recitation. **Thriller** becomes biggest-selling album of all time with 65m copies worldwide



1983 Massive hits from **Thriller** include fiery **Billie Jean** and and Van Halen anti-gang-violence track **Beat It**. Jackson performs **moonwalk** dance step for first time on TV

1984 Jackson lands largest individual sponsorship deal in history with \$5m ad campaign for **Pepsi Cola**. Is injured when his hair catches fire while filming a commercial. Rejoins Jacksons for **"Victory"** tour – donates his \$5m performance fee to charity. Wild rumours about bizarre private life begin to circulate

1987 Release of third album, **Bad**. Buys **Neverland** ranch

1988 Publishes autobiography, **Moonwalker**



1991 Signs \$65 million recording deal with **Sony**. Fourth album **Dangerous** marks end of singer's collaboration with Quincy Jones

1993 Accused of molesting 13-year-old boy; Jackson categorically denies allegation. **Pepsi** cancels sponsorship deal

1994

Marries **Lisa Marie Presley**

1995

Releases **HIStory: Past, Present and Future, Book 1** album



1996 Lisa Marie files for divorce. Singer marries nurse **Debbie Rowe**. Fathers three children: **Prince Michael I** (1997), **Prince Michael** (1998), and **Prince Michael II** (2002)



2001 Releases **Invincible** – album gets cool reception

2005 Following four-month trial Jackson is acquitted of charges of child molestation

2008 Jackson and music promoter AEG Live announce he will perform 50 concerts at London's O2 Arena

2009 June 25: Michael Jackson suffers cardiac arrest at his Beverly Hills home. Pronounced dead at UCLA medical centre



Caricature: Bob Hoare
Pictures: Associated Press

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