**Michael Jackson**

29 August 1958 - 25 June 2009
American singer and songwriter, producer and dancer

**Private life**
* born in Gary, Indiana (USA)
* the 8th child of 10 children in an African-American working-class family
* married Lisa Marie Presley (1994); divorced (1996)
* married Debbie Rowe (1996); divorced (1999)
* 3 children

**Career:**
- began his professional career as a member of the Jackson 5, in 1964 along with his elder brothers
  - began his solo career in 1971
- In the early 1980s, became a dominant figure in popular music
  - “Thriller” = best selling album of all time
  - at the origin of very innovative videos
    - great performer and dancer
  - massive influence on numerous artists of various music genres

**Which songs and albums to remember?**

* “Thriller” 1982: most successful album ever (65 million copies worldwide)
  - Included such hits as Beat it, Billie Jean, Thriller
* “Bad” 1987: 7 successful singles (*The way you make me feel, Man in the mirror...*)
  - Dangerous’ 1991: 32 million copies worldwide (Black or White.)
* “History” 1995: They don’t care about us