

MEMORIES OF MICHAEL

When the news of Michael Jackson's death on 26th June, 2009 reached fans around the world, thousands wrote about it on social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook. He gave fans, young and old, some wonderful music, and was a strong musical influence on many singers and songwriters. How was the 'King of Pop' remembered?



Justin Timberlake

In 2001, Justin Timberlake performed with Michael Jackson at the MTV Music Video Awards. 'I'm lucky to have memories with him on and off stage ... He really was, and always will, be the 'King of Pop.'

Quincy Jones, producer on Off The Wall, Thriller and Bad

'I'm devastated. The music that we recorded in the '80s is played in every corner of the world. I've lost my little brother, and part of me has gone with him.'



President Barack Obama

'I often listened to Michael Jackson when I was a kid in Hawaii. He was one of our greatest performers.'



Britney Spears

'I was so excited about seeing his tour in London, and performing with him there. I'm devastated.'

Beyoncé

'This is a terrible day. Michael Jackson will always be the King of Pop.'



Madonna

'I can't stop crying.'

Live Concerts

Many musicians were in the middle of concert tours when they heard the news. Madonna had a huge picture of Michael above the stage while his songs played. A dancer dressed like Michael and performed all of his famous dance moves, while Madonna watched. At the end she said, 'To one of the greatest artists that the world has ever known!'

P Diddy

'He made the music come alive. I will miss him.'



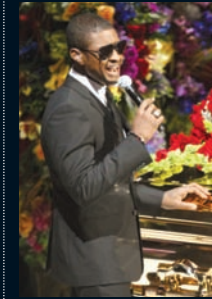
What do these words mean? You can use a dictionary.

social networking site influence memory devastated heaven memorial service poem

* We say 'Rest in Peace' (RIP) when someone dies.

The Memorial Service, Los Angeles

Many stars performed and spoke about Michael at the memorial service in Los Angeles. People watched it live on TV all over the world.



Usher sang one of Michael's songs, 'Gone Too Soon', and started to cry during his song. 'My music wouldn't be the same without Michael Jackson.'

His death has been very, very hard for me.'

'Sing our songs among the stars and walk our dances across the face of the moon ...'

Queen Latifah read a poem which was written about Michael by black writer Maya Angelou.

twitter
'Michael Jackson is now moonwalking in heaven. RIP.*'

twitter
'Thanks for the music and the memories. RIP, MJ.'

What memories do you have of Michael Jackson and his music? What will people remember most about him, do you think?

BLACK OR WHITE?

MICHAEL JACKSON,
MOTOWN AND THE
COLOUR BARRIER

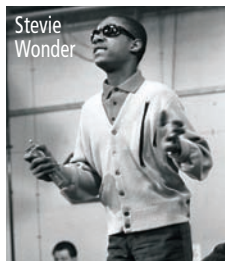
When Michael Jackson first started singing in the 1960s, the music business was very different in the US. There was the main pop chart, but there was also a chart for R&B (Rhythm and Blues) music. Most African-American artists had their music only on the R&B chart. Many radio stations only played music from one chart or the other. Michael Jackson's success helped to change this.

'WHITES, ONLY'

African-American artists had faced problems for years. Sammy Davis, Jr was a famous performer and singer. In 1945, he was paid a lot of money to perform at a big hotel in Las Vegas. There was just one problem: at first he was not allowed to stay in the hotel; it was for white people only.



THE MOTOWN YEARS



In 1960, African-American Berry Gordy started a new record company – Motown. Gordy wanted to bring black music to white America. He carefully controlled the image of his artists – including their clothes and dance style. Gordy believed that this image would help white Americans to become more interested in music by African-American artists. It worked: Motown had many hugely successful black artists in the 1960s and '70s including Marvin Gaye, Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder and, of course, The Jackson 5 and Michael Jackson. Things had changed a lot, but many people still spoke about a 'colour barrier' for African-American artists.



Diana Ross with the Supremes

Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' video



MICHAEL AND MTV

In the early 1980s, the music channel MTV appeared. It was very popular with teenagers. At first, the channel played mostly rock music by white artists, but Michael Jackson's huge success changed all of this.

What do these words mean? You can use a dictionary.
barrier chart image channel

In 1983, Michael's record company CBS wanted MTV to play the 'Billie Jean' video. MTV refused, saying it was the wrong kind of music for the channel. CBS said that they would take all of their other artists away from MTV if they didn't play Michael Jackson's videos. The channel agreed to play 'Billie Jean' several times each day and it was hugely popular. The same was true for the 'Thriller' video, and many other Michael Jackson hits.

After Michael Jackson's solo success in the 1980s, it was less unusual for black singers to be on MTV, to be on the front cover of magazines, and to be in the main pop charts. Many African-American artists believe that Michael Jackson opened the door to a fairer world for them.

What kind of music do you like? Do you know its history?

CHILD STARS: TOO FAMOUS TOO YOUNG?

Big Brother, X-Factor, Britain's Got Talent – with the growing number of TV 'talent' shows, it sometimes seems that everybody wants to be famous, and this includes children. But as Michael Jackson's story shows, becoming a child star doesn't always lead to a happy life. Young stars have to grow up very quickly. Is it possible to be too famous too young?



THE WORLD'S FIRST CHILD STAR

Shirley Temple was a huge movie star in the 1930s. She made her first movie at the age of five. She could act, sing and dance and her movies made a lot of money. However, Shirley Temple did not continue acting as an adult and her movie career ended when she was about 20. In later life, she worked as a politician.

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FRIENDS OF MICHAEL



Michael Jackson felt close to people who had been child stars. One of his close friends was Elizabeth Taylor, the famous actress. Another friend was Macaulay Culkin. In 1990, when Macaulay was ten, he starred in the first of the *Home Alone* movies. However, his success came with family problems; his parents started to fight over divorce arrangements and money. Macaulay said that he wouldn't act again until they stopped fighting. It took two years for it to end. As an adult, Macaulay hasn't had any more hit movies.



BRITNEY SPEARS AND THE DISNEY 'STAR FACTORY'

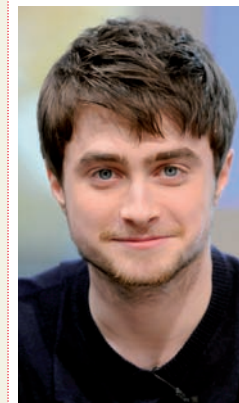
Britney Spears was chosen to be on Disney's *All New Mickey Mouse Club* on television when she was ten years old. Justin Timberlake and Christina Aguilera were on the show at the same time! Six years later, she had a hit with '(Hit Me), Baby One More Time'. It was the start of a hugely successful career but Britney had many problems. In 1994 she married an old school friend in Las Vegas but ended the marriage after 55 hours. She had two children with her next husband, but that marriage also ended. At times she has seemed out of control, and she is often followed by a large group of press photographers.

What do these words mean? You can use a dictionary.
grow up childhood divorce marriage

TEENAGE MOVIE STARS



Actors in two of the world's biggest movies were child stars. **Kristen Stewart** plays Bella in the *Twilight* films. Her first big film was *Panic Room* with Jodie Foster, when she was twelve. Kristen wants to become a writer one day too.



Harry Potter star **Daniel Radcliffe** made his first television appearance when he was ten. Then he got the part of Harry Potter. As well as the Harry Potter films, Daniel has made other movies and appeared on stage in London and New York. 'I do everything that a normal teenager does,' he said in one interview. 'I'm very normal!'

What are the biggest dangers for a child star, do you think?

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