

## MICHAEL JACKSON

Michael Jackson is arguably\*<sup>1</sup> the "most successful entertainer of all time." In fact, he is in the Guinness Book of World Records for exactly that. He received 15 Grammy Awards and 26 American Music Awards. He had 17 number one singles in the US, and sold an estimated 750 million records worldwide. He is, in fact, the world's best selling artist in history.

Michael Jackson was born on August 29, 1958. He was born into a working class family. His father often physically and emotionally abused\*<sup>2</sup> him. If he didn't do things exactly right, he would get beaten. His father also often made fun of his nose calling him "fat nose."

When Michael was just 6 years old, he joined his brothers in a band, which they called The Jackson Brothers. When he was eight, he and his brother Jermaine became the lead vocals, and the group's name was changed to The Jackson Five. The group was very successful, and soon Michael became the lead singer. He also produced many solo albums that were also extremely successful.

Not only was Michael Jackson a brilliant singer, but he was also an incredible dancer, creating original moves that were mimicked\*<sup>3</sup> all around the world. The "moonwalk" is perhaps his most famous dance move of all.

Michael Jackson obviously made a lot of money as an entertainer. However, he also donated and raised over 300 million dollars through many charities and his own "Heal the World Foundation."

In 2009 while preparing for his "This Is It" concert tour, Michael Jackson died of cardiac arrest\*<sup>4</sup>. His death was eventually ruled a homicide. He was 50 years old.

\*<sup>1</sup> arguably : ほぼ間違いなく

\*<sup>2</sup> abuse : 虐待する

\*<sup>3</sup> mimic : 真似する

\*<sup>4</sup> cardiac arrest : 心拍停止