

## e-lesson

Week starting: June 21, 2010

### 1. Michael Jackson

This week's lesson is about one of the most influential performers in the history of pop music, who died a year ago on June 25, 2009: Michael Jackson.

#### Level

Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B1 and above).

#### How to use the lesson

1. Ask your students who their favorite pop singers or groups (past or present) are, and why. If his name hasn't already been mentioned, ask for your students' opinions on the music of Michael Jackson. Would they agree that he was one of the greatest performers of all time? What about Jackson's life away from his music? Do your students see him as a victim of fame?
2. Give your students five to ten minutes to read through the text on Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Tell them they are going to answer a series of questions on the text, but that they shouldn't write anything down at this stage.
3. Divide the students into pairs and hand out Worksheet B. Ask them to work together to complete the true/false/doesn't determine questions in Exercise 1, and the comprehension questions in Exercise 2.
4. Check answers in open class.
5. Keeping the students in their pairs, hand out Worksheet C and ask the students to complete the crossword.
6. Check answers in open class.

**Answers:**

**Exercise 1**

1. D 2. T 3. F 4. F 5. F 6. D 7. F 8. T 9. F 10. D

**Exercise 2**

1. It was Michael's ranch in California.
2. He was Michael's pet chimpanzee.
3. Around 110 million.
4. Michael Jackson and four of his brothers.
5. Because their make-up was so good.
6. His skin becoming much paler and his face changing shape.
7. In the way that when he was a small boy, his father forced him to spend most of his time rehearsing and touring.
8. His singing and dancing.

**Exercise 3**

1. tours 2. downhill 3. superstar 4. childlike 5. bizarre 6. rehearsing  
7. height 8. troubled 9. influential 10. chimpanzee 11. boy 12. performer

If the sentences have been completed correctly, *The King of Pop* will read from top to bottom.

**2. Related Websites**

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.michaeljackson.com>

"The official Michael Jackson site," including videos and (under "Music": "Lyrics") the words to many of his songs. Accessible to intermediate level.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-jackson-memorial8-2009jul08,0,199118.story>

Michael's obituary (June 2009) in the *Los Angeles Times*. Challenging for intermediate level.

[http://www.nydailynews.com/real\\_estate/galleries/michael\\_jackon\\_/michael\\_jackon\\_.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/real_estate/galleries/michael_jackon_/michael_jackon_.html)

Forty-two pictures of Neverland Ranch. Accessible to all levels.