



## LONG LIVE ROCK 'N' ROLL

**Elvis Presley** was the first big star of rock and roll music. He was born in Mississippi in 1935. His family was very poor. But they were able to buy Elvis a guitar. He loved to sing, even as a small boy. Elvis made his first hit record when he was 21 years old. Many parents did not want their children to listen to Elvis sing. They would not let their children watch Elvis on TV. Adults thought Elvis' music was too wild. They didn't like the way he danced and wiggled his hips as he sang. But many teenagers loved Elvis. Everywhere he went, crowds of people tried to get close to him. Because of this, Elvis was not able to go places with other people. He spent a lot of time alone. He lived in a big house in Memphis, Tennessee. He also had a big house in California.

The thing Elvis most liked to do was sing. When he had a concert, thousands of people came. While he sang, Elvis would throw scarves to the people in the audience. Elvis' way of singing was a mix of rock, country, and rhythm and blues. Because of this, people of all ages came to love Elvis' music. Most of his records have sold over a million copies. Elvis died in 1977. But people

from all over the world still think of him as the "King of Rock 'n' Roll."

**Michael Jackson** was born in Indiana in 1958. His family did not have a lot of money. But they had a lot of talent. Michael started singing with his brothers when he was five years old. They called themselves the "Jackson Five." At the age of 14, Michael made his first album on his own. But he was 21 years old before he became a big hit singing without his brothers. Michael's music combined soul, rhythm and blues, and rock. His album "Thriller" sold over 35 million copies. Most of Michael's records sold more than a million copies each. Michael's music was loved around the world. Wherever he traveled, thousands of people came to see him.

Michael lived in a big house in California. There, he was able to get away from the crowds of people. He spent most of his time with his family and close friends. He was a shy person but loved to perform. He often threw his hat or gloves to the people as he sang. Michael's fans loved to watch him move on stage. His dancing is still copied by many people. Michael died in 2009. He was truly a "superstar" of music.



Use the **COMPARISON SHEET** to show the similarities and differences between Elvis Presley and Michael Jackson. Compare their way of singing, when they became big stars, and any other facts you have found.