

WE ARE THE WORLD

Michael Jackson

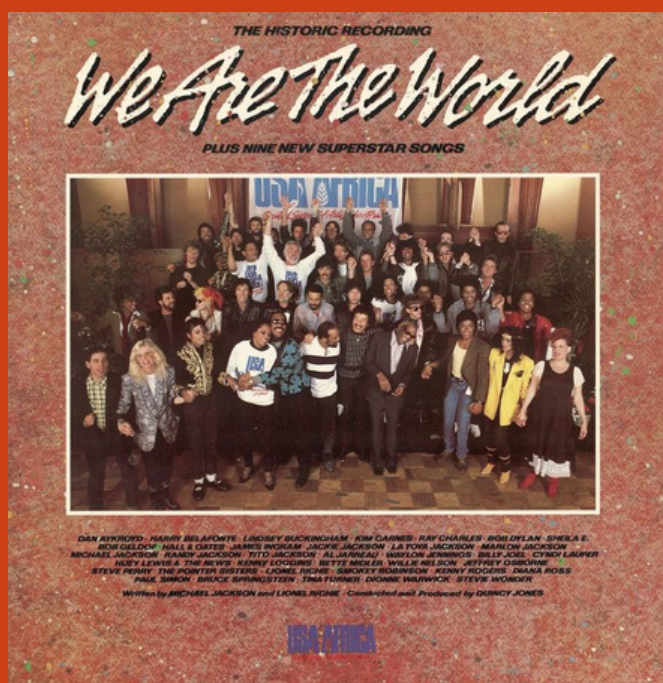
Full Name: Michael Joseph Jackson

Born: August 29, 1958, in Gary, Indiana, USA

Died: June 25, 2009, in Los Angeles, California

Early Career:

Michael was the eighth of ten children in the Jackson family. He began his musical career as the lead singer of The Jackson 5, a band formed with his brothers. They became famous in the late 1960s and early 1970s with hits like "ABC" and "I Want You Back."



"We Are the World" – Creation of the Song

Written by: Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie

Produced by: Quincy Jones

Released: March 7, 1985

Purpose: "We Are the World" was a charity single created to raise money for famine relief in Africa, especially Ethiopia.

The Idea Begins In the early 1980s, the world was hearing about a terrible famine in Ethiopia. Millions of people were suffering from hunger, and thousands were dying. Around the same time, Band Aid, a group of British musicians, released the charity single "Do They Know It's Christmas?" in 1984 to raise money for Africa. This inspired American artists to do something similar. The famous singer and humanitarian Harry Belafonte had the idea of creating a U.S. version to help Africa. Soon, he connected with Ken Kragen, a manager and organizer, and they began planning.

The Success and Impact

"We Are the World" was released on March 7, 1985. It became a global hit, topping charts in the U.S. and many other countries. In just three days, it raised over \$10 million. In total, it earned more than \$60 million to fight hunger and disease in Africa and the U.S. The song won three Grammy Awards, including Song of the Year.

The money was used to:

- Send food, medicine, and supplies to African countries
- Support projects to improve health and agriculture
- Help people in the U.S. affected by poverty