

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will have gained a deeper understanding of Michael Jackson's life, music, and impact on popular culture.

Materials and Prep

- Computer or tablet with internet access
- Paper and pencils
- Speakers or headphones
- Optional: any Michael Jackson albums or songs

Activities

1. Research and Biography:

Have the student research Michael Jackson's life and create a short biography. They can include important milestones, his early career, and his impact on the music industry. Encourage them to use reliable sources and take notes.

2. Music Appreciation:

Listen to some of Michael Jackson's popular songs together. Discuss the different genres he incorporated into his music, such as pop, R&B, and disco. Ask the student to share their favorite song and explain why they like it.

3. Artistic Expression:

Ask the student to create a piece of artwork inspired by Michael Jackson. They can draw a portrait, design an album cover, or even create a dance routine. Encourage them to be creative and express their admiration for his talent.

4. Writing Activity:

Have the student write a short story or poem inspired by Michael Jackson's music or life. They can explore themes of perseverance, passion, or the power of music. Provide prompts if needed to spark their imagination.

5. Historical Context:

Discuss the historical and cultural context of Michael Jackson's career. Talk about the civil rights movement, the impact of Motown music, and the significance of his breakthrough as an African American artist in the 1980s. Use age-appropriate language and examples to help the student understand.

6. Social Impact:

Explore Michael Jackson's philanthropic efforts and his influence on popular culture. Discuss how he used his fame to support various charities and highlight important social issues. Encourage the student to think about how they can make a positive impact in their own community.

Talking Points

- "Michael Jackson was a famous singer, songwriter, and dancer. He was born in 1958 in Gary, Indiana."
- "He started his music career at a very young age as a member of the Jackson 5, a group formed with his brothers."
- "Michael Jackson's album 'Thriller' is one of the best-selling albums of all time. It had many popular songs like 'Beat It' and 'Billie Jean'."
- "He was known for his iconic dance moves, including the moonwalk."
- "Michael Jackson was not only a talented musician but also a humanitarian. He supported many charities and organizations."
- "His music and performances had a great impact on popular culture and inspired many artists that came after him."