Stormzy

Early Life

Stormzy is a British musician who specialises in grime and hip-hop. He shot to fame with a series of freestyle raps on YouTube. He was born on 26th July, 1993, in Thornton Heath and started rapping at the age of eleven.

Did You Know...?
Stormzy starred in a film in 2016!

Stormzy's real name is Michael Omari and his family come from Ghana, in Africa. He was brought up in south London, often battling MCs much older than himself for fun. He did very well at school where he achieved six A* GCSEs. His teachers wanted him to go to a top university but things didn't quite work out that way!

Career

From 2011 onwards, Stormzy started freestyling online and soon had a large following. He performed more hip-hop to begin with but soon he started experimenting in grime. In July 2014, the six-foot-five-inch rapper released his first song and soon record companies wanted to sign him up. He was so successful that he won Best Grime Act at the MOBO awards (MOBO stands for Music of Black Origin). He was the first unsigned rapper to appear on a TV programme called 'Later... with Jools Holland', and he also worked with other famous rappers.

In 2015, Stormzy came third in the BBC's 'Introducing Top 5' on Radio 1. He released a few singles and he became the first ever freestyler to reach the top 40 in the UK. After one of his songs hit 17 million views online, he took on 'The X Factor' in a battle for a Christmas Number 1. It eventually reached number 8, making it the rapper's most successful track ever.

Stormzy loves social media and often posts photos and messages but in 2016 he took a complete social media break. He returned in early 2017 when he released his long-awaited new album, which reached number one on the UK Albums Chart.

Along with the two MOBOs, Stormzy has won lots of other awards in his short career. He won 'British Male Solo Artist' and 'British Album of the Year' at the 2018 BRIT Awards.

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Stormzy finally joined up with a major record company when he signed for Atlantic Records in January 2018. Expect lots more tunes to come!

Glossary

Grime – A type of music that is a mixture of UK garage, drum 'n' bass, and dancehall.

Freestyle rap – Rapping where you make up the words as you go along.

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Questions

1. Where was Stormzy's family born? Tick one.

   - ◯ Manchester
   - ◯ Thornton Heath
   - ◯ Ghana
   - ◯ USA

2. What is Stormzy's real name?

   _____

3. How tall is Stormzy?

   _____

4. Why do you think record companies wanted to sign Stormzy after he released his first song?

   _____

   _____

   _____

5. What do you think Stormzy's teachers thought of him? Give reasons for your answer.

   _____

   _____

   _____

6. Match these events up with the dates.

Stormzy was born.	2018
Stormzy released his first song.	1993
Stormzy stars in a film.	2014
Stormzy signs for Atlantic Records.	2016

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7. What two awards did Stormzy win at the BRIT Awards?

_____

_____

_____

8. Find and copy one word which suggests that Stormzy's fans eagerly expected his new album.

_____

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Answers

1. Where was Stormzy's family born? Tick one.

   ○ Manchester
   ✓ **Thornton Heath**
   ○ Ghana
   ○ USA

2. What is Stormzy's real name?

   Stormzy's real name is Michael Omari.

3. How tall is Stormzy?

   Stormzy is 6 foot 5 inches.

4. Why do you think record companies wanted to sign Stormzy after he released his first song?
   Pupils' own responses, such as: I think record companies wanted to sign Stormzy after he released his own song because they must have liked his music and wanted him to make more music for their company.

5. What do you think Stormzy's teachers thought of him? Give reasons for your answer.

   I think Stormzy's teachers thought he was intelligent and wanted him to go to university because he achieved 6 A* GCSEs.

6. Match these events up with the dates.

Stormzy was born.	2018
Stormzy released his first song.	1993
Stormzy stars in a film.	2014
Stormzy signs for Atlantic Records.	2016

7. What two awards did Stormzy win at the BRIT Awards?

   At the 2018 BRIT Awards, Stormzy won 'British Male Solo Artist' and 'British Album of the Year'.

8. Find and copy one word which suggests that Stormzy's fans eagerly expected his new album.

   long-awaited