

BOB MARLEY

Robert Nesta "Bob" Marley was born 6 February 1945 in the village of [Nine Mile](#) in [Saint Ann Parish](#), Jamaica. He was singer, songwriter, guitarist, and political activist. He is the most widely known performer of reggae music. His father, Norval Sinclair Marley, was a Marine officer and captain. When Marley was ten years old his father died of a heart attack in 1955 at age 60. Marley and his mother moved to Kingston's Trenchtown slum after Norval's death. Marley became friends with Neville "Bunny" Livingston (later known as Bunny Wailer), with whom he started to play music. He left school at the age of 14 and started working in a shop. In his free time, he and Livingston made music with Joe Higgs. In 1962, Marley recorded his first two singles, "Judge Not" and "One Cup of Coffee", with local music producer Leslie Kong. Later Marley met Peter McIntosh (known as Peter Tosh), who had similar musical ambitions. In 1963, Bob Marley, Bunny Livingston, Peter McIntosh, Junior Braithwaite, Beverley Kelso, and Cherry Smith formed a group, calling themselves "The Teenagers". They later changed their name to "The Wailing Rudeboys", then to "The Wailing Wailers", and finally to "The Wailers". In 1966, Marley married Rita Anderson. Bob Marley had 13 children: three with his wife Rita, two adopted from Rita's previous relationships, and the remaining eight with separate women. They moved near his mother's residence in Wilmington, for a few months. Upon returning to Jamaica, Marley became a member of the Rastafari movement. The Wailers' first album, *Catch A Fire*, was released worldwide in 1973, and sold well. The Wailers broke up in 1974. Marley started solo careers. He left Jamaica at the end of 1976 for England, where he recorded his *Exodus* and *Kaya* albums. Marley's best known hits include "I Shot the Sheriff", "No Woman, No Cry", "Could You Be Loved", "Stir It Up", "Jamming", "Redemption Song", "One Love" and, together with The Wailers, "Three Little Birds", "Buffalo Soldier" and "Iron Lion Zion". In July 1977, Marley was found to have cancer. The rest of the tour was canceled. Marley afterwards found medical help from Munich specialist Josef Issels, but his cancer had already progressed. He died at Cedars of Lebanon Hospital in Miami, Florida on May 11, 1981 at the age of 36.