



1991: Freddie Mercury died in London (UK)



## Freddie Mercury

Freddie Mercury was born Farrokh Bulsara in 1946 on the island of Zanzibar and was educated in a private school in India. In 1964, he migrated to London with his parents. From the 1970s, under the name of Freddie Mercury he became the lead singer of a successful rock band called *Queen*. The quartet released songs which hit the charts on an international scale: *Killer Queen*, *Bohemian Rhapsody*, *We will rock you*, etc. Most of their songs became anthems inviting fans to clap hands, sing, stamp feet and be one with the whole audience. *Queen* had a huge success around the world. One of their most notable performances was in July 1985 at the *Live Aid* charity concert organised by Bob Geldorf to raise money for victims of famine in Africa. For their twenty minutes live performance, *Queen* gave one of their best concerts. Their phenomenal success lasted up to the early 1990's mainly due to Freddie's unique, charismatic, daring, and controversial personality. He was an exceptional singer, musician, songwriter, showman and popular gay icon. Freddie was diagnosed with AIDS in 1987 and died on 24 November 1991 at the age of 45. His career with *Queen* was dramatised in the 2018 biopic *Bohemian Rhapsody*.



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### Teaching ideas

★★★ **CYCLE 4** - Look for a picture of Freddie Mercury as a child, show it to students, and let them find out who is on the picture with yes / no questions. Then, look for more pictures portraying Mercury's career and have your students imagine his life. Comfort or not their suppositions showing them the trailer of the film *Bohemian Rhapsody* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPOVHJYFOAU>).

★★★ **CYCLE 3 ET 4** - Let your students speak about their favourite icon and have them prepare an interview with him / her. Student A is a journalist and Student B is the artist. Then they exchange roles.

★★★ **LYCÉE** - Let the class have a discussion about the artists as role models. Do they have any?