Early Life and Musical Beginnings: Elvis Aaron Presley was born on January 8, 1935, in Tupelo, Mississippi, and had an identical twin brother who was stillborn. Growing up in a working-class family during the Great Depression, Elvis was deeply influenced by the pop and country music of the time, as well as the gospel music he heard in church.

First Recording as a Gift: Presley's first recording was not made with the intention of starting a music career. In 1953, he paid for a few minutes of studio time at Sun Records to record a two-sided acetate disc with "My Happiness" and "That's When Your Heartaches Begin" as a birthday gift for his mother.

Breakthrough with "That's All Right": His breakthrough came in 1954 at Sun Records with the recording of "That's All Right," a blues song by Arthur Crudup. Memphis DJ Dewey Phillips played it on his radio show, and its blend of country and R&B marked the emergence of a new sound that would come to be known as rock 'n' roll.

Innovative Style and Controversy: Elvis's dynamic dancing and unique vocal style made him an instant teen idol but also a controversial figure among conservative adults. His performance on "The Milton Berle Show," where he gyrated his hips, caused a national outrage but also skyrocketed his fame.

First Rock-and-Roll Album to Top the Charts: Elvis's self-titled debut album, released in 1956, was the first rock-and-roll album ever to reach the top of the Billboard charts, a testament to his burgeoning popularity and the rising appeal of rock-and-roll music.

Military Service: At the height of his fame in 1958, Elvis was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in Germany for about two years. This was a significant public relations move, as many celebrities before him had found ways to avoid service.

Hollywood Years: Presley appeared in 33 successful films, mostly musicals, from 1956 to 1969. While these films were often critically panned, they were popular with audiences and helped to maintain his public profile during the 1960s.

The '68 Comeback Special: After a period of declining popularity, Elvis staged a television comeback in 1968 with "Elvis," a special that showcased his talents as a singer and musician. This event is often referred to as the '68 Comeback Special and reinvigorated his career.

Vegas Years and Aloha from Hawaii: In the 1970s, Elvis became known for his elaborate Las Vegas shows and his first-of-its-kind satellite-broadcast concert, "Aloha from Hawaii," which was viewed by more than a billion people worldwide.

Legacy and Posthumous Success: Elvis passed away on August 16, 1977, at the age of 42, but his music and influence continue to live on. He has been inducted into multiple music halls of fame and, according to the RIAA, he has sold more than 146.5 million certified album units in the United States, making him one of the best-selling solo artists in the history of recorded music.