**BHM 2024 Theme: Arts & Entertainment (A&E)**

**Drake:** **Canadian rapper, singer, songwriter, and actor**

**Aubrey Drake Graham (**born October 24, 1986) known professionally as **Drake**, is a Canadian rapper, singer, songwriter, and actor. An influential figure in contemporary [popular music](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Popular_music), Drake has been credited with popularizing singing and [R&B](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contemporary_R%26B) sensibilities in [hip hop](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hip_hop_music) artists. Gaining recognition by starring as [Jimmy Brooks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jimmy_Brooks) in the [CTV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CTV_Television_Network) teen drama series *[Degrassi: The Next Generation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Degrassi%3A_The_Next_Generation%22%20%5Co%20%22Degrassi%3A%20The%20Next%20Generation)* (2001–08), he pursued a recording career in 2006, releasing his debut mixtape [*Room for Improvement*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Room_for_Improvement_%28mixtape%29) in February of that year. He followed up with the mixtapes [*Comeback Season*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comeback_Season_%28mixtape%29) (2007) and [*So Far Gone*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/So_Far_Gone_%28mixtape%29) (2009) before signing with [Young Money Entertainment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Young_Money_Entertainment).[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drake_%28musician%29#cite_note-4)

As an [entrepreneur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entrepreneurship), Drake founded the [OVO Sound](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OVO_Sound) record label with longtime collaborator [40](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/40_%28producer%29) in 2012. In 2013, Drake became the "global ambassador" of the [Toronto Raptors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toronto_Raptors), joining their executive committee and later obtaining naming rights to their practice facility [OVO Athletic Centre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OVO_Athletic_Centre). In 2016, he began collaborating with [Brent Hocking](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brent_Hocking) on the [bourbon whiskey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bourbon_whiskey) [Virginia Black](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginia_Black_Whiskey).[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drake_%28musician%29#cite_note-11) Drake heads the OVO fashion label and the Nocta collaboration with [Nike](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nike%2C_Inc.), and founded the production company [DreamCrew](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DreamCrew%22%20%5Co%20%22DreamCrew) and the fragrance house Better World. In 2018, Drake was reportedly responsible for 5 percent ([CAD](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_dollar)$440 million) of Toronto's CAD$8.8 billion annual tourism income.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drake_%28musician%29#cite_note-12) In 2022, he obtained partial ownership of Italian soccer club [A.C. Milan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A.C._Milan).

Among the world's [best-selling music artists](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_best-selling_music_artists), with over 170 million records sold, Drake is ranked as the highest-certified [digital singles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_highest-certified_music_artists_in_the_United_States) artist in the United States by the [RIAA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Recording_Industry_Association_of_America).[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drake_%28musician%29#cite_note-billboard_riaa2-13) He has won five [Grammy Awards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grammy_Award), six [American Music Awards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Music_Awards), a [record 34 *Billboard* Music Awards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billboard_Music_Award#Most_wins), two [Brit Awards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brit_Awards), and three [Juno Awards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juno_Awards). Drake has achieved 13 number-one hits on the [*Billboard* Hot 100](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billboard_Hot_100) (14 counting "[Sicko Mode](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sicko_Mode%22%20%5Co%20%22Sicko%20Mode)") and holds further Hot 100 records, including the most top 10 singles (76), and the most charted songs (321),[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drake_%28musician%29#cite_note-billboard-14) From 2018 to 2023, he held the record for the most simultaneously charted songs in one week (27), the most Hot 100 debuts in one week (22);[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drake_%28musician%29#cite_note-Billboard_2017-03-27-15) and held the most continuous time on the Hot 100 (431 weeks).[[a]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drake_%28musician%29#cite_note-16) He additionally has the most number-one singles on the [R&B/Hip-Hop Airplay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R%26B/Hip-Hop_Airplay), [Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hot_R%26B/Hip-Hop_Songs), [Hot Rap Songs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hot_Rap_Songs), and [Rhythmic Airplay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhythmic_%28chart%29) charts.

His father, Dennis Graham, is an [African-American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_Americans) drummer from [Memphis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memphis%2C_Tennessee) who once performed with musician [Jerry Lee Lewis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerry_Lee_Lewis).[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drake_%28musician%29#cite_note-18)[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drake_%28musician%29#cite_note-auto3-19) His mother, Sandra "Sandi" Graham ([née](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birth_name#Maiden_and_married_names) Sher), is a Canadian [Ashkenazi Jew](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashkenazi_Jews), who worked as an English teacher and florist.[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drake_%28musician%29#cite_note-20)[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drake_%28musician%29#cite_note-21)[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drake_%28musician%29#cite_note-22)[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drake_%28musician%29#cite_note-23)[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drake_%28musician%29#cite_note-24) Graham performed at Club Bluenote in Toronto, where he met Sandra, who was in attendance.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drake_%28musician%29#cite_note-auto3-19) Drake is a dual citizen of the United States and Canada, the former derived from Graham.[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drake_%28musician%29#cite_note-vibe.com-25)[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drake_%28musician%29#cite_note-Tanabe-26)[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drake_%28musician%29#cite_note-27) In his youth, he attended a Jewish day school and became a [bar mitzvah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bar_and_bat_mitzvah). **(read more):**

[**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drake\_(musician)**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drake_%28musician%29)