Johann Wolfgang von Goethe was born on 28 August 1749 in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. His father was the Imperial Councillor Johann Kaspar Goethe (1710-1782) and his mother was Katharina (née von Förster). His grandfather was Johann David Goethe, a physician and poet. Goethe's education was extensive and varied, and he studied law, medicine, and philosophy at the University of Leipzig. He also studied law at the University of Leipzig and the University of Jena. Goethe's interest in the arts and sciences continued throughout his life, and he made significant contributions to literature, philosophy, and science.

Goethe is best known for his two-part poetic drama Faust, which was first performed in 1808. The work is a masterpiece of German literature and continues to be influential. Goethe also wrote many other works, including plays, novels, philosophical works, and poems. He was a prolific writer and is considered one of the greatest German writers of all time.

Goethe's influence extended beyond literature and the arts. He was a polymath and made contributions to fields such as medicine, biology, and chemistry. He was also a friend of many of the leading figures of his time, including Friedrich Schiller and Johann Peter Eckermann.

Goethe died on 22 March 1832 in Weimar, Germany. He is buried in the Goethe-Denkmal in the city of his birth. The Goethe-Museum in Frankfurt am Main is dedicated to his life and work. Goethe's legacy is still felt today, and his works continue to be studied and admired around the world.