Cosmetology History Timeline

**The Ice Age:** Haircutting and styling were practiced; implements were shaped from sharpened flints, oyster shells, or bone; animal strips of hide were used to tie hair back or as adornment.

**4000 BC:** Ancient Egyptians used cosmetics for personal beautification, religious ceremonies, and burial ceremonies.

**1500 BC:** Henna, a dye extracted from the leaves of an ornamental shrub, was used extensively to impart a reddish hue to the hair and nails.

**300 BC:** Hairstyling was introduced in Rome; women used hair color to indicate class: noblewomen tined their hair red, middle-class colored their hair blond, and poor women colored their hair black.

**Renaissance:** (Began in the 14th century and lasted into the 17th century.) Particular emphasis was placed on physical appearance. Hair was carefully dressed and ornaments and headdresses were worn.

**1450:** Barbering and surgery were separated by law.

**1541:** Henry VIII reunited barbers and surgeons of London by granting a charter to the Company of Barber Surgeons.

**1892:** Frenchman Alexandre F. Godefroy invented the hot-blast hair dryer.

**1905:** Charles Nessier invented the first electric perm machine.

**1906:** Sarah Breedlove married C. J. Walker, who began selling her scalp conditioning and healing treatment called “Madam Walker’s Wonderful Hair Grower.”

**1910:** Madam C. J. Walker moved her company to Indianapolis where she built a factory, a hair salon, and a training school.

**1932:** Ralph L. Evans and Everett G. McDonough pioneered a perm method using external heat generated by a chemical reaction

**1941:** Scientists developed the “cold wave” or permanent wave hair.

**Today** Hair color, texture, and style prevail.

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