

History of Cosmetology

History of Cosmetology – Quick Reference Notes

1. Definition

- **Cosmetology** – the professional study and practice of beauty treatments, encompassing hair care, skin care, nail care, makeup, and related services.

2. Early Beginnings (Pre-historic to Antiquity)

Era	Region	Key Contributions
Pre-historic (~30,000 BCE)	Europe, Africa	Use of ochre, charcoal, and plant extracts for body painting and skin protection.
Ancient Egypt (~3,500 BCE – 30 BCE)	Nile Valley	• Kohl for eye makeup (protects against glare & infection). • Olive-oil-based hair oils, scented balms. • Cosmetic powders (malachite, galena).
Mesopotamia & Persia	Fertile Crescent	Early nail polishing with henna; perfumed oils for skin.
Ancient India (~1500 BCE)	Indus Valley	Ayurvedic skin-care recipes; natural hair dyes (henna, indigo).
Classical Greece & Rome (~800 BCE – 476 CE)	Mediterranean	• Greek “katharsis” – cleansing rituals. • Roman pomades, hair-setting tools, bleaching with lead carbonate.

3. Middle Ages to Renaissance (5th – 16th c.)

Period	Region	Highlights
Islamic Golden Age	Middle East	Development of al-kohl , perfumery, and herbal skin treatments; translation of Greek texts preserved cosmetic knowledge.

History of Cosmetology

Period	Region	Highlights
European Middle Ages	Europe	Cosmetic use limited by the Church; however, aristocracy used herbal rinses, lead-based face powders, and hair “powders.”
Renaissance	Italy, France, England	• Flourishing of elaborate hairstyles (e.g., “pouf”). • Introduction of ceruse (white lead) face paint. • Growth of perfume houses in France (e.g., <i>Guerlain</i> origins).

4. Early Modern Era (17th – 19th c.)

Century	Innovations	Notable Figures / Brands
17th	Powdered wigs, scented hair pomades, carmine red pigment from cochineal insects.	French court stylists (e.g., <i>Mademoiselle de la Tournelle</i>).
18th	Rise of “ beauty salons ” in Paris; first printed beauty manuals (e.g., <i>The Ladies' Companion</i>). Industrialization → mass-produced soaps,	Pierre-François Jolly – early salon owner.
19th	shampoos, and hair dyes (e.g., <i>Mauveine</i>). Introduction of nail polish (first lacquered “French” nails).	L'Oréal founded (1909, later) – roots in hair dye chemistry.
Late 19th	First cosmetic schools (e.g., <i>Martha Mattox School of Cosmetology</i> , 1905, USA).	John C. Hill – pioneer of professional hair-cutting education.

5. 20th Century Expansion

5.1. Professionalization

- **1910