

History of Cosmetology

History of Cosmetology – Quick?Reference Notes

1. Definition & Scope

- **Cosmetology** = the study and practice of beauty treatments: hair styling, skin care, nail care, makeup, and related services.
- Encompasses **science (chemistry, dermatology)**, **art (design, color theory)**, and **business (salon management, client relations)**.

2. Pre?Historical & Ancient Roots

Era / Region	Key Practices	Materials & Techniques	Cultural Significance
Pre?historic (c. 40,000? BCE)	Body painting with ochre, charcoal	Natural pigments, animal fats	Ritual, identity, status
Ancient Egypt (c.? 3000–30?BCE)	Hair braiding, wigs, eye makeup, perfume	Kohl (galena), malachite, henna, scented oils	Symbol of wealth, protection from the sun & evil
Mesopotamia & Persia	Beard grooming, scented oils	Olive oil, crushed herbs	Indicated social rank
Ancient China (Shang? Zhou, 1600–1046?BCE)	Hair powders, facial masks	Rice powder, pearl powder, herbal decoctions	Linked to health & spiritual purity
Classical Greece & Rome	Hair curls, skin bleaching, perfume	Lead?based creams, olive oil, scented flowers	Beauty as civic virtue & status symbol

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

Period	Developments	Notable Figures / Texts
Early Middle Ages	Simple grooming; use of herbs for scalp health	Monastic herbal manuals

History of Cosmetology

Period	Developments	Notable Figures / Texts
Islamic Golden Age (8th–13th c.)	Advanced perfumery, hair care recipes, cosmetics in “Kitab al-Tibb”	Al-Razi, Avicenna (cosmetic formulations)
Renaissance Italy	Emphasis on pale skin, elaborate hairstyles	“De la beauté” treatises; use of lead-based “white”
Elizabethan England	White lead face powder, elaborate wigs	“The Book of the Courtier” mentions grooming rituals

4. 17th–18th Centuries – Professionalization Begins

- **France** becomes the epicenter of court beauty (Louis XIV, Louis XV).
- **Perfume industry** emerges in Grasse (mid-1700s).
- **Hair-dressing salons** open in Paris; “coiffure” becomes a trade.
- **Cosmetic texts** such as “*Le Livre des Secrets*” (1667) disseminate recipes.

5. 19th Century – The Birth of Modern Salon Culture

Development	Impact
Industrial Revolution → mass production of soaps, shampoos, hair dyes	Wider access to basic cosmetics
Rise of “beauty parlors” in Europe & U.S. (e.g., Madame Rachel , Paris, 1860s)	First commercial beauty services
Patent medicines (e.g., “Balm of Gilead”)	Early commercialization, though often unsafe
Scientific advances (chemistry, microbiology) → safer formulations	Foundations for modern cosmetic chemistry

6. Early 20th Century – Institutional Foundations

Year	Milestone	Significance
1909	Martha Matilda Harper opens the first “Harper Method	