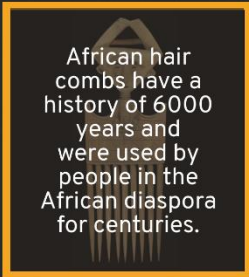
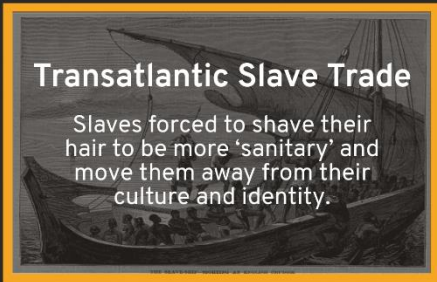


In early African civilisations, headdresses and hairstyles could indicate a person's family background, tribe and social status.

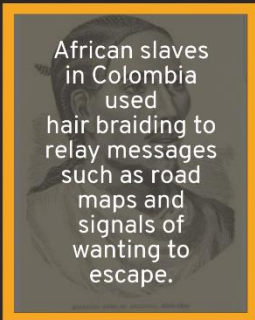


African hair combs have a history of 6000 years and were used by people in the African diaspora for centuries.

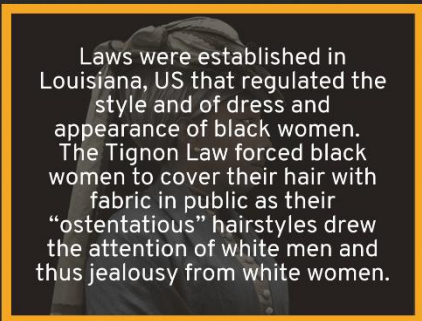


Transatlantic Slave Trade

Slaves forced to shave their hair to be more 'sanitary' and move them away from their culture and identity.



African slaves in Colombia used hair braiding to relay messages such as road maps and signals of wanting to escape.



Laws were established in Louisiana, US that regulated the style and of dress and appearance of black women. The Tignon Law forced black women to cover their hair with fabric in public as their "ostentatious" hairstyles drew the attention of white men and thus jealousy from white women.



The Abolition of Slavery Act is passed by the British Parliament, abolishing the practice of slavery in all British territories.

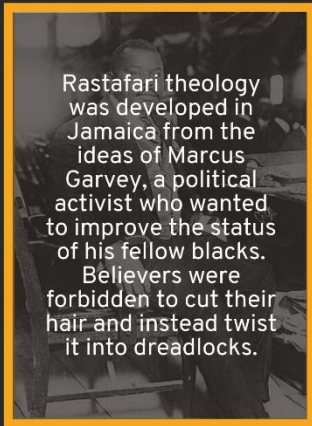
The Act Prohibiting Slave Trade in the British Colonies shall be amended, and slavery shall be abolished throughout the British possessions.



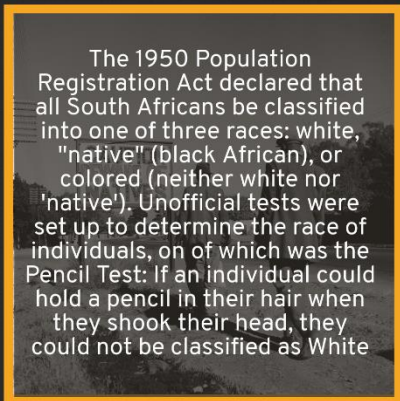
Annie Turnbo Malone develops a line of hair products including "The Great Wonderful Hair Grower" and a straightening solution. By the turn of the century, she had a network of "Poro Agents" who went door-to-door selling the hair and beauty products.



Started of as one of the "Poro Agents", Sarah Breedlove, a.k.a Madam C.J. Walker, later created her own line of hair products and straightener, becoming one of the wealthiest African American women of her time.



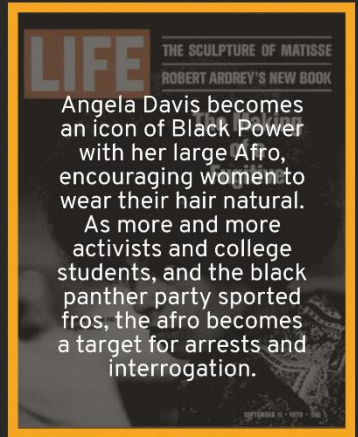
Rastafari theology was developed in Jamaica from the ideas of Marcus Garvey, a political activist who wanted to improve the status of his fellow blacks. Believers were forbidden to cut their hair and instead twist it into dreadlocks.



The 1950 Population Registration Act declared that all South Africans be classified into one of three races: white, "native" (black African), or colored (neither white nor 'native'). Unofficial tests were set up to determine the race of individuals, on of which was the Pencil Test: If an individual could hold a pencil in their hair when they shook their head, they could not be classified as White



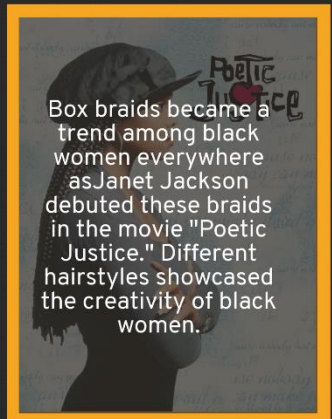
George E. Johnson creates the Ultra Wave Hair Culture, a "permanent" hair straightener for men, with a women's chemical straightener following shortly after. The Johnson Products Company is also launched.



Angela Davis becomes an icon of Black Power with her large Afro, encouraging women to wear their hair natural. As more and more activists and college students, and the black panther party sported fros, the afro becomes a target for arrests and interrogation.



The natural hair movement dwindles down, and other hairstyle alternatives such as the Jheri Curl, Wave Nouveau, and other permed styles become increasingly popular. Music icons including Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie sported the Jheri Curl.



Box braids became a trend among black women everywhere as Janet Jackson debuted these braids in the movie "Poetic Justice." Different hairstyles showcased the creativity of black women.



Cornrows become very popular. Many women would personalize their cornrows and add zig-zag patterns or do other interesting things. The black hair industry also becomes a billion dollar industry.



The natural hair movement gains many supporters not just in the US but also in the UK. Black women have been embracing their natural hair texture and natural hair care lines continue to boom in popularity and sales. And more importantly, black self-love is also on the rise.