## STANDARD









Barbering

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# THE HISTORY OF BARBERING

#### Introduction

Barbering is one of the oldest professions in the world. Whether from a sense of aesthetics or because of religious conviction, virtually all early cultures practiced some form of beautification and adornment, given the archaeological evidence found in painted pottery, early sculptures, and burial mounds. As civilization advanced, so did the barbering profession, developing from its beginnings as cultural and tribal necessity to the art form it is today.

# why study THE HISTORY OF BARBERING?

Barbers should study and have a thorough understanding of the history of barbering because:

- Barbering is one of the oldest documented professions. Understanding its evolution can provide you with an appreciation of the prominent role it achieved in different cultures throughout the ages.
- Knowing the history of your profession can help you predict and understand upcoming trends.
- Having a clear picture of how modern barbering organizations and regulations developed gives you a better idea of where you fit into the profession at large and what is expected of you as a barber.

## Understand the History of Barbering

After reading this section, you will be able to:



Discuss the evolution of barbering and the origin of the word barber.

Barbering has a rich history, stretching back millennia. Although technological developments—metal shears, clippers, electricity—have certainly advanced the barber's profession, its standing within human civilization has been more significantly influenced through the ages by changing traditions, cultural trends, and shifting political influences.

#### ANCIENT CULTURES

Archaeological studies from around the world have shown that haircutting and hairstyling were practiced as early as the glacial age. The simple implements used then were shaped from sharpened flints, oyster shells, or bone. Animal sinew or strips of hide were used as adornment or to tie the hair back, and braiding techniques were employed in many cultures.