Late 19th century - To demonstrate being assimilated American citizens, the Black community thought carefully about how to present themselves in society.

Early 20th century - The straightening “hot” comb is introduced.

Pre-Civil War - Kinky hair and dark complexion are associated with African ancestry, slavery, and inferiority in early American history.

Reconstruction Era - White centric standards for appearance limited the Black community’s social mobility.

Late 19th century - To demonstrate being assimilated American citizens, the Black community thought carefully about how to present themselves in society.

Late 20th century and early 2000s - Black women and men hairstyles carry less political associations. Motives for hairstyles are: health, economic, convenience, personal preference, familiarity, and cultural aesthetics.

1950s - Chemical lye-based hair treatments were introduced to conveniently offer longer-lasting straightening of curly hair types.

1960s - Declarations of Black is Beautiful challenged the mainstream beauty ideals of light skin and straight hair.

Civil Rights Era - Afros and dreadlocks symbolize Black empowerment and political consciousness.

Today - Natural hairstyles continue to gain in popularity, but are still met with discrimination and a lack of cultural understanding.

To avoid discrimination Blacks invested in hair straightening techniques while striving for a place in society.

Support legislation that bans the discrimination of natural hairstyles.
  - Create a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair (CROWN) Act

Advocate for funding to research hair disorders in people with skin of color (SOC).
  - American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) HAIR Grant

Utilize skin of color educational resources in training and practice.
  - AAD SOC curriculum

Perform shared decision making that is informed by the nuances of dermatoses and hair loss in people with skin of color.

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