

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SKATEBOARDING



LATE 1940'S/EARLY 1950'S

Surfers invented skateboarding out of boredom when there were no waves to surf. By removing the wheels from roller skates and attaching them to pieces of wood they created the first skateboards.



1960'S

By the 1960's the skateboard's popularity had grown with the rise of surf-culture. There were contests held everywhere and sponsored skateboarders started to emerge. However this popularity declined just as fast as it had risen.



1970'S

The advent of the *urethane wheel* allowed skaters to ride on rougher ground and at faster speeds. In 1976 a major drought in California forced people to drain their swimming pools which gave rise to *pool skating* – the first major shift in how people rode their skateboards, no longer just on the flat in parking lots and on sidewalks

1980'S

The 80's was a time of renaissance in skateboarding: new tricks were invented, pros were earning unheard of amounts of money, and skateboard companies were thriving. This era saw the introduction of *vert*, short for vertical, which used ramps, half-pipes and bowls to create a more aerial style of skating. However to the untrained eye skateboarding had lost it's appeal and the popularity once again fell flat. This lull led to the introduction of street skating...



1990'S

During the 90's skateboarding was at it's most raw. Skateboarders took to the streets to try out tricks in different places such as stairs, handrails, benches and curbs. Since then skateboarding has been on a nonstop uphill climb to what it is today.

TODAY

At its core, skateboarding was traditionally for the underdogs, outcasts and misfits and as a result has long been thought of negatively by the majority of outsiders. But now, with generations of adults who grew up with skateboarding and the exposure of the sport at an all time high with it's inclusion for the first time in the 2020 Olympic Games, the future of skateboarding is looking bright.

