

# Black Hairstyles

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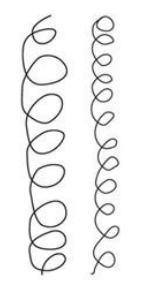

## Historical Significance and Etymology



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# Black Hair



Black hair comes in different textures, curl patterns, and shapes including fades, freeform, dreadlocks, afros, and twists.

ANDRE WALKER HAIR TYPING SYSTEM			
			
1a 1b 1c	2a 2b 2c	3a 3b	4a 4b
<b>Type 1: Straight Hair</b> Fine to Coarse, Curl Resistant <small>1c strands are thicker and more coarse than 1a</small>	<b>Type 2: Wavy Hair</b> Fine & Thin to Coarse & Frizzy	<b>Type 3: Curly Hair</b> Loose Curls to Corkscrew Curls	<b>Type 4: Kinky Hair</b> Tightly Coiled to Z-angled Coils



# Black Hair

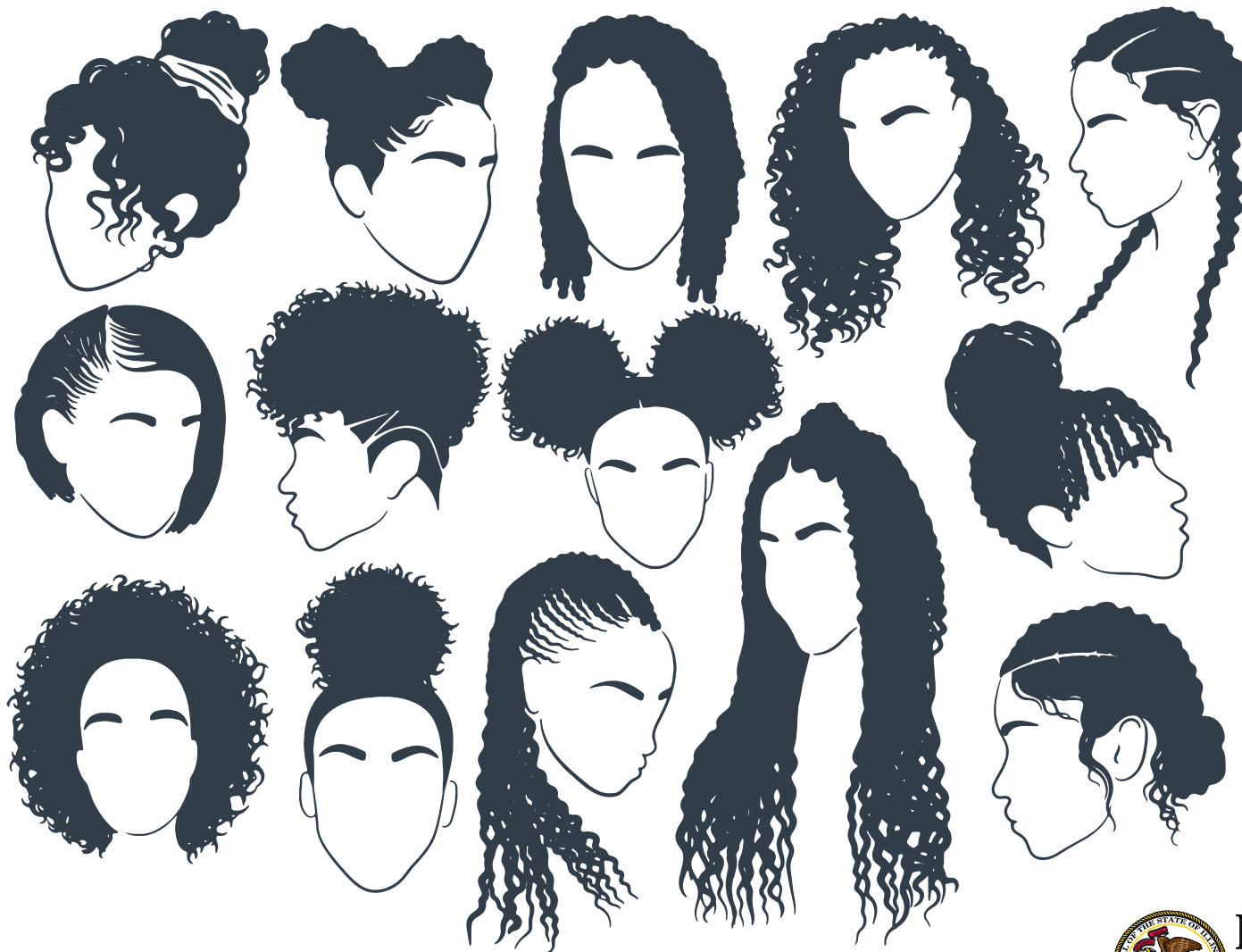
Andre Walker created a numerical system for categorizing hair types based on coil variation.

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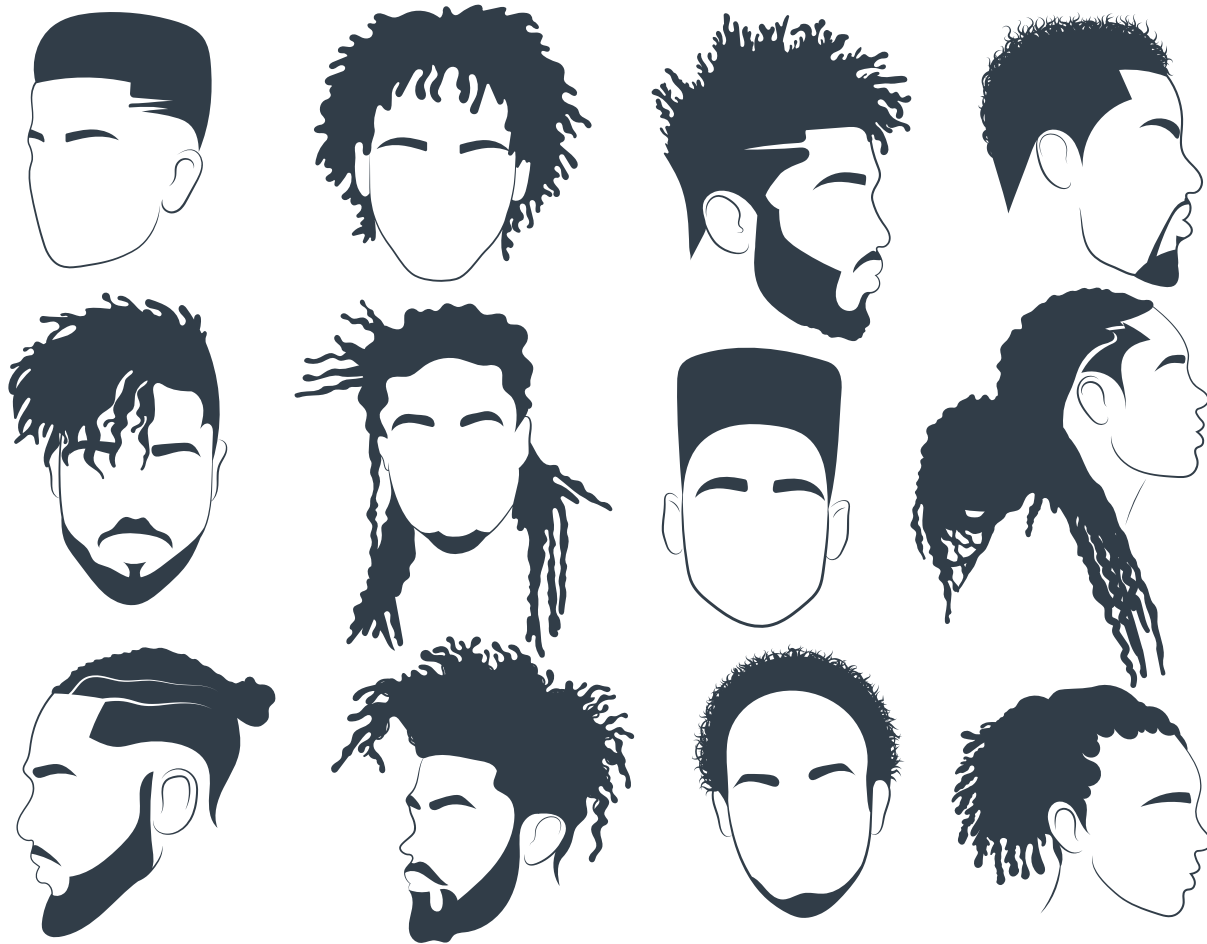
\*This list is non-exhaustive and does not include all Black hairstyles.



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# Background

For generations, there have been hairstyles unique to Black people that are linked to history, slavery, texture, and more. Black hairstyles were banned in the military, workplace, and school.



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# Background

Black students have used chemical relaxers and other harmful methods to “fit in” with school rules, which lead to chemical burns and hair loss and negative impact on self-esteem.



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# Background

- Some schools used suspensions and expulsions to discipline Black students whose hairstyles did not match school rules.
- New rules will encourage students to wear hairstyles that are suited to their individual cultural heritage, texture, and preferences.





# Background

Four-year-old Jett Hawkins and his mother Ida Nelson spearheaded the enactment of Public Act 102-0360, also known as the Jett Hawkins Law, which prohibits discriminating against hairstyles historically associated with race, ethnicity, or hair texture.



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# Fade

- **Etymology**  
Hair on the back of the head and sides are short while hair on the top of the head can vary in length.
- **Historical Significance**  
Originated in the U.S. military during the 1940s and has changed with hip-hop styles to become edgier.
- **Types**  
Hi-top fade, drop fade, taper fade, bald fade, afro fade, mohawk fade, undercut fade.



# Afro

- **Etymology**  
Natural curls styled in an evenly rounded shape.
- **Historical Significance**  
The Black Power movement in the 1960s sparked acceptance of afros and symbolizes fighting oppression, rejecting European beauty standards, and promoting Black beauty, rebellion, liberation, activism, and pride.



# Dreadlocks

- **Etymology**

Hair is washed, but not combed and twisted while wet into tight braids.

- **Historical Significance**

In the United States, dreadlocks became popularized in the 1970s and are associated with rejection of the mainstream and represent connection to Africa.



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# Dreadlocks

- **Historical Significance**

In some countries in Africa, locks symbolize strength and can only be worn by warriors.

The Akan people in Ghana recognized locks as a symbol for higher power that was reserved for priests.

South Asians also matted their hair.





# Dreadlocks

- **Types**  
Sisterlocs, microlocs, free-form locs, traditional, wick locs
- **Also Known As**  
Dreads, locs, locks, faux-locks



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# Braids

- **Etymology**  
Braids or plaits are formed by interlacing three or more strands of hair.
- **Historical Significance**  
Origin is traced back to 3500 BC. Many African groups braided hair to identify with their tribe. Braids indicated wealth, marital status, power, and religion.

Slaves used braids to communicate escape routes. White slaveholders forced slaves to shave their head and keep a “tidy” appearance.



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# Braids

- **Historical Significance**  
Braids became popular worldwide during the 1900s.
- **Types**  
Box braids, cornrows, Dutch braids, Goddess braids, lemonade braids, Fulani braids, triangle box braids, knotless braids, and snake braids.



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# Twists

- **Etymology**  
Divide hair into several sections, twisting strands of hair, and twisting two twisted strands around each other.
- **Historical Significance**  
A protective style that does not need product or bands to keep in place. Twists are used to symbolize tribe, social status, and family background.
- **Types**  
Twist-out and Senegalese twists.



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# Bantu Knots

- **Etymology**  
Bantu knots are a protective hairstyle where hair is sectioned, twisted, and wrapped to form a knot-like appearance.
- **Historical Significance**  
Bantu universally translates to “people” among many African languages and categorizes more than 400 ethnic groups.



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# Bantu Knots

- **Historical Significance**

Bantu knots trace back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC when the Bantu-speaking community spread through Central, Eastern, and South Africa during the Bantu migration.

Bantu knots originate from the Zulu kingdom of Southern Africa where curls and coils of Black hair are said to resemble shapes in the cosmos

- **Also Known As**

Zulu knots, Nubian knots, or Chiny bumps



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# Questions?

Contact [studentcare@isbe.net](mailto:studentcare@isbe.net) or call 773-285-5585



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