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Class:

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**“Technical Description of a Toothbrush”**

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## **Definition**

A toothbrush is a small brush with handle use for cleaning the teeth. Since the earlier 1400s human have made different invention to innovate the way we wash our teeth. Toothbrushes are one of the essential items needed for oral hygiene. They were the first tool used for oral care. Since them humans have invented way to make the toothbrush more efficient on every use.

## **History of the Toothbrush**

The first know use of the toothbrush date back to the Tang Dynasty in China in the 1420. The handle of the toothbrush was made from bone or bamboo and the bristle were made from pig hair. However earlier cultures used to chew on twigs or roots to clean their teeth. These toothbrushes were later taken to Europe where they were made from horsehair instead, they provided better results than the early one. [Colgate, 2020]. We can see the original design of the first toothbrushes on figure 1 and 2 below.

**Figure 1:** First Know Toothbrush [2]

First toothbrush invented 1498



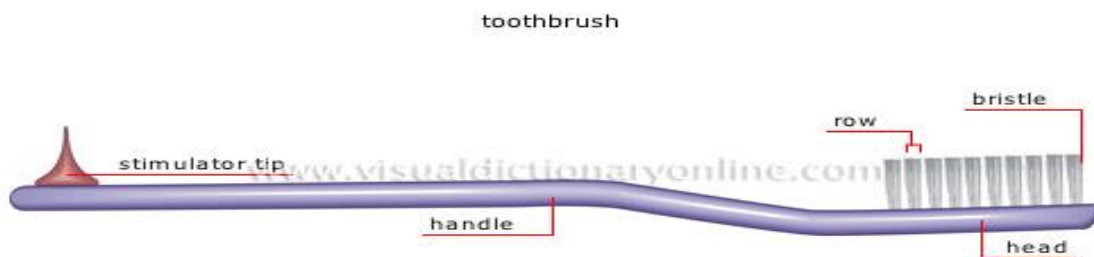
Ancient cultures chewed on twigs or roots to clean their teeth.

**Figure 2:** Different type of earlier toothbrushes designs [2]



### Part of the Toothbrush

**Figure 3:** Part of a basic toothbrush [3]



**Toothbrush:** The whole equipment, it required back and forth motion in order to clean the teeth and other parts of the mouth

**Handle:** Provide a solid grip to hold the equipment. It prevents any slip during the use.

**Stimulation tip:** small plastic piece made of rubber. This is used to clean the gums. Some toothbrushes have this piece on the back of the head. This provides a better angle for gum cleaning & prevent injuries to the mouth during use.

**Head:** The part of the toothbrush where the bristle are inserted.

**Bristle:** Fibers made with different softness usually medium or soft that are usually made from nylon.

**Row:** Consist of different line of bristle put together.

### Evolution of the Toothbrush

**Figure 4:** The Evolution of Toothbrushes [4]



Since its early days the toothbrush has seen many technological advances. We had come a long way since the early toothbrushes. Nowadays toothbrushes got different used. If we compare the early models to the modern ones, we can see many advances which had make the use of the equipment more efficient for us. Nowadays we can see toothbrushes made with charcoal bristle as seen on toothbrush number 9 on figure 4 above. These toothbrushes help clean better and create whiter smiles. Others advance we had seen are the toothbrushes made for kids. We can see different design as seen on number 10 above, by adding cartoon it made them more attracted for kids to wash they teeth every day. The major upgrade we had seen are the battery operates toothbrushes. These automatic toothbrushes were invented in the early 1950s which were capable to vibrate during it used by the early 2000s they head was able to spin as seen on number 11 and 12 above on figure 4. These modern toothbrushes not only clean your teeth but are also capable of cleaning your gums & tongue. We can only imagine where we can go from here as we find ways to innovate our toothbrush design over the years to come.

### **Conclusion**

Since the toothbrush creation in the earlier 1400s they have become essential part of our daily life. They are one of the important items in our day-to-day lifestyle. This basic tool is capable to do so much in every use. Human are innovating and would always look for ways to make them better and more efficient on every use. The toothbrush since its creation remain one of the most essential items in every household.

## **Reference**

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## **Self-Reflection**

In this assignment I learned the meaning of a technical description. This consisted of the item history, and in some cases even the dimension when it would be relevant to the reader. We started by learning the history of a given object then we went more in detail over every detail of the object. In my case during the research of the toothbrush I learned how much we had advanced since its creation years ago. This assignment helped me understand how to cite sources in APA style. Not only did we cite sources, but it also helped me organize citing sources for images. It is important to keep in mind our readers when creating the technical description that is why we include images which reference the topic or part of the item we are talking about in our research. From doing this assignment I would probably use the citation style in the near future. As an engineering student we must follow a general style which is mostly APA. I feel that it was important to learn how to properly cite since it is something I would use repeatedly. This assignment addresses how to present technical topics to lay audiences from the student learning outcome on our syllabus.