

A skateboarder wearing a purple cap, a white t-shirt, and khaki pants is performing a trick on a ramp. The ramp has a black sign with yellow cursive text that says "Bla Art". In the background, several other people are watching, and there are trees and a fence. The scene is outdoors and brightly lit.

Gravel Skate Blog
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The history of Skateboarding

It's fascinating to watch a skilled skateboarder do what they do best. I remember watching groups of young people in my local town doing tricks and skating around like it was easy. Of course, when I stepped on a board for the first time, I immediately realised that it was not. I constantly wondered, how did this even become a thing? Did people just randomly decide to put wheels on a piece of wood?

Well, skateboarding was invented in the 1940's by surfers in California who wanted to surf the streets when waves were flat. They attached wheels to wooden boards and started riding down hills and sidewalks, inventing new tricks along the way.

It became more and more popular in the 1960's and 1970's with the creation of the very first professional skateboarding competitions and the introduction of skateboarding parks and ramps.

Skateboarding has continued to evolve over the years, with new tricks and styles being developed, and it has become a global phenomenon with a huge following around the world. The sport was even added to the Olympics in the Tokyo 2020 games!

Skateboarding as a sport isn't the only thing that has evolved – the actual boards have too.

In early days, they were made from solid wood and had metal wheels (uncomfy!) but now they have evolved to have more flexible decks and polyurethane wheels, which made for a smoother ride and better manoeuvrability.

Thank you for reading!