An Illustrated Overview of Psychology’s History

1875 | First demonstration laboratories are set up independently by William James (at Harvard) and Wilhelm Wundt (at the University of Leipzig).

1879 | Wilhelm Wundt establishes first research laboratory in psychology at Leipzig, Germany.

1881 | Wilhelm Wundt establishes first journal devoted to research in psychology.

1883 | G. Stanley Hall establishes America’s first research laboratory in psychology at Johns Hopkins University.

1888 | Sir Francis Galton develops the concept of correlation that will allow generations of scientists to quantify associations between variables.

1890 | William James publishes his seminal work, *The Principles of Psychology*.

1891 | James Mark Baldwin establishes the first experimental laboratory in psychology in Canada at the University of Toronto.

1892 | G. Stanley Hall founds American Psychological Association.

1894 | Ivan Pavlov shows how conditioned responses are created, paving the way for stimulus-response psychology.

1895 | Alfred Binet develops first successful intelligence test in France.

1898 | Margaret Washburn publishes *The Animal Mind*, which serves as an impetus for behaviourism.

1900 | Sigmund Freud’s increasing influence receives formal recognition as G. S. Hall invites Freud to give lectures at Clark University.

1904 | John B. Watson writes classic behaviourist manifesto arguing that psychology should study only observable behaviour.

1905 | Leta Hollingworth publishes pioneering work on the psychology of women.

1906 | Widespread intelligence testing is begun by military during World War I.

1908 | Lewis Terman publishes Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale, which becomes the world’s foremost intelligence test.

1913 | Lewis Terman publishes *Principles of Psychology*. Gillespie and Marston, Inc.

1914 | John B. Watson writes classic psychology textbook, advocating radical behaviour.

1916 | B. F. Skinner publishes his influential research proposing a behaviouristic view of human behavior.

1918 | Gestalt psychology becomes an influential research direction.


1930-1940 | The American Psychological Association (APA) sees rapid growth and influence.

1947 | Sigmund Freud’s influence is at its peak.

1950 | John Bowlby begins research into the nature of the attachment bond created by World War II and its huge demand for clinical services.

1954 | Pauline Tomkins and Rosalyn feeling influence receives recognition as a science.


1961-1964 | Roger Sperry wins Nobel Prize (in physiology and medicine) for his research on the split-brain.

1968 | The cognitive revolution is launched at watershed conference.

1978 | Herbert Simon wins Nobel Prize (in economics) for his work on the science of psychology.

1980s | The repressed psychology movement is launched with the publication of Martin Seligman and his students’ influential research on the psychology of women.

1990s | The positive psychology movement begins to gain momentum.


2012 | Daniel Kahneman wins Nobel Prize (in economics) for his research on the psychology of judgment and decision making.

2013 | Martin Seligman publishes *Positivity*. Free Press.