

I've DNA Tested, Now What?

Step 1:

Log into your DNA results account

Step 2:

Locate the link to check your "Matches". Most companies will provide the name of the person you match along with their e-mail address.

For Y-chromosome DNA results, contact close matches and matches with the same surname. For mtDNA results, contact all matches. For autosomal matches, contact those who have matching ancestral surnames and close matches that didn't upload any surnames.

Step 3:

View your deep ancestral origins. For Y-DNA click the "Haplotree" link. For autosomal DNA, click "Population Finder" in FTDNA or "Ancestry Painting" in 23andMe.

For current SNP info and haplogroup refinements, visit the ISOGG Y-DNA Haplogroup Tree:
<http://www.isogg.org/tree/index.html> (see links listed to other trees like Alex Williamson's or YFULL)

It is important to note that Y-DNA and mtDNA haplogroups do not share the same origins based on their letter and number combinations. For example, mtDNA haplogroup H does not have the same origin as Y-DNA haplogroup H. Also, the science of tracing ancestry using DNA is always evolving and current haplogroup information may change.

Step 4:

Join projects. If you tested with Family Tree DNA, you may have initially ordered your test through a surname project, but there are other projects you can join like haplogroup and geographical projects. The largest project at Family Tree DNA is a geographical project, the Ireland Y-DNA Project.

DNA Project Listings and Searches:

<http://www.worldfamilies.net/surnames>

Family Tree DNA homepage (click the 'Projects' link or enter a surname in the "Search Your last Name" box)
<http://www.familytreedna.com/>

When uploading your results to another website than from the company you originally tested through, that is considered uploading your results to a public database as in most cases, like with Worldfamilies, your results will be publicly viewable.

Step 5: Upload results to various databases (see attached)

Step 6: Get help. Most companies have a contact e-mail or phone number where you can ask questions regarding your results, but to go further and learn as you go along, join one of the several genetic genealogy mailing lists:

DNA-NEWBIE

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DNA-NEWBIE/>

Step 7: Be patient and keep checking. Sometimes, you have to wait for the right person to test you and match.

Resources:

International Society of Genetic Genealogy

<http://www.isogg.org/>

ISOGG wiki

http://www.isogg.org/wiki/Wiki_Welcome_Page