

GSSCC - - DNA Special Interest Group - - handout  
Tuesday, September 7, 2021

Three types of DNA tests

autosomal DNA - - The most common ancestry DNA test analyzes autosomes, which are the chromosomes that you inherit from both of your parents. This makes it ideal for discovering your heritage and ancestors going back as far as ten generations ago. This type of DNA analysis is usually very accurate. Available to both women and men.

mitochondrial DNA (“mtDNA”) - - Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is the kind that’s passed down exclusively from your mother. Analyzing mtDNA will reveal the migration patterns and ancestry of your maternal line. Available to both women and men.

Y-DNA - - Y-DNA is inherited from father to son from the Y-chromosome. Through Y-DNA testing you’ll discover the migration pattern over many generations of your paternal line.

DNA testing companies

23 and Me - - offers autosomal DNA test and DNA + Health test; no family trees; generates DNA “tree;” 18 million tests in database; good for finding matches outside U.S., especially for South American and African ancestors; has chromosome browser; can export raw DNA data to other sites and third party sites, but cannot import raw DNA data from other companies. Began 2007; based in Sunnyvale, California.  
<https://www.23andme.com/>

Ancestry DNA - - offers autosomal DNA test; linked and unlinked family trees often available; largest database of tests at 30 million tests; excellent for finding matches in North America; has “through lines” matching tool but no chromosome browser; can export raw DNA data to other sites and third party sites, but cannot import raw DNA data from other companies. Began 2012; based in Lehi, Utah.  
<https://www.ancestry.com/dna/>

Family Tree DNA - - offers Y-DNA test (available only to men), mitochondrial DNA test (available to both men and women), and autosomal DNA test; family trees sometimes available; smaller database of 2 million-plus tests, but good for determining distant ancestry; finding Jewish matches; and confirming haplogroup of male line; has chromosome browser; can export and import raw DNA data to and from other companies and third party sites. Began in 2000; based in Houston, Texas.

<https://www.familytreedna.com/>

Living DNA - - offers autosomal DNA test and DNA + health test; no family trees; smaller database; excellent for narrowing search for British roots; partner site with Find My Past subscription tree-building website; can export and import raw DNA data to and from other companies. Began in 2015; based in Frome, Somerset, England, with other facilities in the U.S. and Denmark.

<https://livingdna.com/>

My Heritage - - offers autosomal DNA test; linked family trees often available; 3 million-plus database and growing; excellent for finding European matches; has “theory of relativity” matching tool and chromosome browser; can export and import raw DNA data to and from other companies and third party sites. Began in 2016; based in Or Yehuda, Israel, with offices in other locations, including Lehi, Utah, and Burbank, California.

<https://www.myheritage.com/dna>

Geneanet - - free site; does not offer DNA testing kits, but accepts import of raw autosomal DNA data from other companies; linked family trees or lists of surnames often available; size of database unknown; good for finding European matches; can import raw DNA data from other companies. Began 2020; based in Paris, France. Recently merged with Ancestry.com.

<https://en.geneanet.org/>

Most companies charge a modest fee to import raw DNA data. Some companies, especially Ancestry and My Heritage, have frequent sales on DNA test kits. Look for discounts around various holidays, including Mothers Day and Fathers Day.

compare DNA testing companies at:

<https://www.dnaweekly.com/best/ancestry>

<https://www.smarterhobby.com/genealogy/best-dna-test/>

### Genetic Genealogy videos

DNA: An Introduction to Genetic Genealogy - - Introduction, 6 lessons

<https://www.familysearch.org/help/helpcenter/lessons/dna-an-introduction-to-genetic-genealogy-introduction>

Ancestry Academy - - “Understanding DNA”

<https://www.ancestryacademy.com/understanding-dna>

### Genetic Genealogy beginner websites

ISSOG (International Society of Genetic Genealogy) - - Beginners’ Guides to Genetic Genealogy

[https://isogg.org/wiki/Beginners%27\\_guides\\_to\\_genetic\\_genealogy](https://isogg.org/wiki/Beginners%27_guides_to_genetic_genealogy)

### Genetic Genealogy glossaries

<https://thednageek.com/a-genetic-genealogy-glossary/>

<https://www.family-tree.co.uk/dna-testing/dna-glossary-for-family-history/>

[https://isogg.org/wiki/Genetics\\_Glossary](https://isogg.org/wiki/Genetics_Glossary)

### Genetic Genealogy Books

Your DNA Guide the Book, by Diahan Southard, published in 2020 by Your DNA Guide; available in both book form and as an e-book.

[www.yourDNAGuide.com](http://www.yourDNAGuide.com)

The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy, Second Edition, by Blaine Bettinger, published in 2019 by Family Tree Books; available in book form.

[www.familytreemagazine.com/store](http://www.familytreemagazine.com/store)

## Genetic Genealogy Blogs

Roberta Estes, DNA-eXplained - - beginner to advanced genetic genealogy posts  
<https://dna-explained.com/>

Diahan Southard, Your DNA Guide Blog - - content very easily comprehended  
<https://www.yourdnaguide.com/ydgblog>

DNA Classroom DNA Blog - - more easy-to-comprehend content  
<https://www.dnaclassroom.com/blog>

Blaine Bettinger, The Genetic Genealogist - - content more scientific & advanced  
<https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/>

list of blogs - - [https://isogg.org/wiki/Genetic\\_genealogy\\_blogs](https://isogg.org/wiki/Genetic_genealogy_blogs)

## Genetic Genealogy Wikis

FamilySearch.org DNA wiki  
[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/DNA\\_Basics](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/DNA_Basics)

International Society of Genetic Genealogy (“ISOGG”) DNA wiki  
[https://isogg.org/wiki/Wiki\\_Welcome\\_Page](https://isogg.org/wiki/Wiki_Welcome_Page)  
[https://isogg.org/wiki/Genetic\\_genealogy](https://isogg.org/wiki/Genetic_genealogy)

Send questions and comments regarding DNA SIG meetings to facilitators at:  
[staff@scgensoc.org](mailto:staff@scgensoc.org)  
attention: Gail - - or - - attention: Maria

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