

## MyHeritage DNA Tools

MyHeritage has many DNA tools available to help you manage your matches and find your relatives. MyHeritage has many testers in their database from the U.S. and Europe.

You have two options for getting DNA results from MyHeritage.

- 1) Buy a MyHeritage DNA Test kit – this is a cheek swab kit
- 2) Upload results from another DNA testing company – Ancestry, 23andMe, or FamilyTree DNA

To get any DNA results from MyHeritage, you will need to create an account with MyHeritage. This requires an email address.

There are four sections to the DNA results from MyHeritage. You can click on any of the sections at the top of the page to easily access them.

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### Overview

This area contains an overview of ethnicity, matches, and locations of your matches.

The overview of ethnicity contains the general locations for the highest percentages of your DNA. You can click on this for further details on your ethnicity.

Matches sort into close family, extended family, and distant relatives. The close family is immediate family to 1<sup>st</sup> cousins. The extended family are 1<sup>st</sup> cousins once removed to 2<sup>nd</sup> cousins once removed. The distant relatives are 3<sup>rd</sup> cousins or more distant cousins. The distant relatives will have the smallest amount of cMs (centimorgans) in common with you.

The locations allow you to see what countries your matches are from. DNA testing is very popular in the USA and a high number of the matches will probably be from the USA.

### Ethnicity Estimates

These are **estimates** based on reference populations. The reference population is DNA from families that have been in a specific area for some time. Your DNA is compared to them to estimate how similar your DNA is to specific genetic characteristics for people in that region.

From the MyHeritage website: “Remember that your Ethnicity Estimates — which are the result of a highly accurate statistical algorithm — **are still estimates**. Some global populations exhibit similar DNA due to proximity and the mingling of populations.”

You can click on each region to find out more about the history and people of that region.

This section also contains Genetic Groups. Many of our ancestors migrated together. This shows you where your DNA is associated with many other people’s DNA based on similar DNA being grouped together. These are a good indication of where in the world your ancestors migrated to. You can see which of your DNA matches are in your genetic groups.

Genetic groups has a confidence level setting. You can adjust this high, medium, or low. This is how confident the algorithm is that you are truly a part of these groups. It defaults to a medium confidence level.

Adjust the timing of the genetic group by sliding the slider bar at the bottom of the image to the left or right. As you scroll down on the left, you'll see common locations and surnames that may be helpful in your research.

### Matches

This gets into the fun stuff. It's great to see how much you're related to people you may know, and you can connect with people you don't know who may help with those brick walls.

This section starts with an overall list of your DNA matches.

You can determine which matches you see in a couple of ways:

- Filter: Tree Details, Relationships, Locations, Labels
- Sort: Shared DNA (default), shared segments, largest segments, full name, most recent

Use these to make it easier to track/view your matches.

If you are managing multiple kits, you can switch that too and it will change the matches you see.

You can also search for a specific match. Also, you can download all matches and/or download all the shared segments of your matches. The downloading is available under the 3 vertical dots menu to the right of the search.

Next is reviewing a match. This gives you a lot of information about how you and that match compare to each other. This does depend on how much information that match has on MyHeritage.

MyHeritage tries to estimate how you are related to the match with a "Probable Relationship". When looking at a list of your matches, the probable relationship with the highest probability is the one shown. These are estimates and can be a helpful starting point for determining how you are related to a match. When reviewing a match, you can see the probabilities for all the possible relationships as well as a diagram that can help guide you to the most recent common ancestor (MRCA) with that match.

If a match has a large, well sourced, family tree, then it's more likely that you'll get additional information per match. Information such as a "Theory of Family Relativity", Shared Ancestral Surnames, Shared Ancestral Places, Shared Matches between Trees, and Pedigree Charts. This information can be useful in determining how you are related to a match.

You can use the label feature to group matches together to make it easier to keep track of matches you have already reviewed. You can add notes to matches as well to identify how you are related.

In the chromosome browser section of your matches, you can use the advanced options to download information on your shared segments. This information can be used easily with third-party tools like DNA Painter.

## DNA Tools

This section includes 4 tools for evaluating your DNA: cM Explainer, Chromosome Browser, AutoClusters, and Ethnicity Maps.

### **cM Explainer**

Per the MyHeritage website: A tool for suggesting how you might be related to a DNA Match based on the amount of shared DNA and ages.

With this tool, you can enter how much cM you share with someone and a couple ages and this will estimate a relationship based on that information. The ages are optional. You can get a relationship purely on the amount of shared DNA you have with a match; however, you get a much more accurate match if you can add ages into the tool.

This tool is based on cM Solver technology licensed from Larry Jones. MyHeritage also added an age algorithm to the cM Solver technology to get more accurate predicted relationships.

### **Chromosome Browser**

In the Chromosome Browser you can compare what DNA you have in common with your matches and what DNA your matches have in common with each other.

If your matches have DNA in common with each other and with you, they show up as triangulated segments.

You can compare up to 7 of your matches. For triangulated segments you can change the cM size to eliminate or include smaller segments as needed.

### **AutoClusters**

This tool clusters your matches into groups likely descended from the same ancestor. You select a kit that you want to generate a report for and then it will email the information to you. The nice feature is it does have the matches for each cluster listed in a table. If you know how you are related to one match in that table, then you have a starting point for how you are related to the other matches in that table.

### **Ethnicity Maps**

Based on the data from MyHeritage DNA users, this tool shows you “the most common ethnicities in each country and the top countries for each ethnicity” according to MyHeritage. This is interesting to look at based on the DNA samples at MyHeritage which ethnicities have ended up where in the world.

## Health Reports

You can now get a variety of health reports from MyHeritage based on your DNA. It does require that you have a MyHeritage DNA sample. This can't be done with uploaded kits. You'll have access to 48 health reports including 27 carrier status reports. It also includes access to a physician and genetic counselors to discuss your health results.

## Manage Multiple Kits

You can upload raw results from other vendors to MyHeritage. When you upload kits, **make sure you assign the results to the appropriate person**. Only assign DNA kits that you've taken to you, otherwise assign the DNA kit to the person who took the DNA test.

From this page, you can see the status of the kit, delete kits, assign a kit to another person, and view results for a kit.

#### Upload DNA data

If you've taken a test at another DNA company, you can download your raw data and upload it to MyHeritage. MyHeritage currently supports uploads from FamilyTreeDNA, 23andMe, and Ancestry. There are detailed instructions on the website for how to download your data from the other sites.

#### Resources:

MyHeritage Blog on DNA <https://blog.myheritage.com/category/dna/>

MyHeritage – Everything you wanted to know about the MyHeritage DNA Test:

<https://blog.myheritage.com/2021/11/myheritage-dna-everything-you-wanted-to-know-about-the-myheritage-dna-test/>

DNA Painter: <https://dnainter.com/>