

GSSCC - - DNA Special Interest Group - - handout

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

We have our DNA results - - now what?

Identify your goals for utilizing your DNA results

Do you want to find birth parents, siblings, cousins and distant cousins? Break down a brick wall or extend your family tree by connecting with others researching same family; or try to reconcile your ethnicity estimate with documentation? Do you seek an explanation for genealogical mysteries you've uncovered as a result of your document research? Or find an explanation for medical mysteries in your family? Each researcher might decide to pursue more than one goal for using DNA results.

Set an attainable goal

RootsTech 2021

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021/tips/set-an-attainable-goal-for-your-genetic-genealogy-research>

Concentrate on one goal at a time.

Your DNA Guide - - DNA Testing Limitations

<https://www.yourdnaguide.com/ydgblog/limits-dna-testing-family-history>

Develop a DNA testing plan

<https://media.familysearch.org/developing-a-dna-testing-plan/>

<https://www.legacytree.com/blog/developing-dna-testing-plan>

Test as many people on both sides of your family as you can. The more siblings, cousins, parents, grandparents, aunts & uncles get tested, the better chances you have of using the DNA results of multiple family members to sort paternal and maternal matches, and to solve genealogical puzzles.

Download your raw DNA data from the vendor where you tested and upload your DNA data to other testing sites in order to “fish” in as many ponds of DNA matches as possible. Often you can upload your DNA data for free, although you may have to pay a modest fee in order to access the analytical tools at the new site.

How to use your DNA results

RootsTech 2021 - - <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021/>

see Guide Me series, “DNA Tips and Tricks,” featuring various speakers.

DNA Beginnings - - at DNAeXplained - Genetic Genealogy blog

<https://dna-explained.com/2021/08/10/announcing-dna-beginnings-a-new-series/>

Roberta Estes has a new blog series for DNA beginners. Ms. Estes is widely respected as a DNA expert. This blog includes instructions on how to download your raw DNA data and upload it to other vendors.

[YouTube.com/user/Ancestrycom](https://www.youtube.com/user/Ancestrycom) - - Crista Cowan, the Barefoot Genealogist

see “You Received Your Results. Now What? Part 1”

see “You Received Your Results. Now What? Part 2”

see “What is a First Cousin Once Removed?”

see “You Won't Match Everyone You Are Related To”

see “Making Discoveries With the New and Improved AncestryDNA Match List” - - Crista Cowan explains how to use DNA results at Ancestry.com

Canada's History - - “Beginner's Guide to Genetic Genealogy”

<https://www.canadahistory.ca/getmedia/eb6be204-3263-4b08-8f34-ee596f9438e5/CHBeginnersGuideGeneticGenealogy.pdf.aspx>

An 18-page downloadable pdf chock-full of helpful discussion categories regarding genetic genealogy. Useful in both USA and Canada.

ISOGG Wiki - - “Autosomal DNA Testing Comparison Chart”

https://isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal_DNA_testing_comparison_chart

A comprehensive comparison of the main autosomal DNA testing companies across numerous categories.

DNA Facebook groups

There are many DNA-related Facebook groups, as well as genealogical Facebook groups associated with single surnames, various ethnic groups, and specific geographic places. Note: many FB groups are “private” and require your request to join.

Genetic Genealogy Tips & Techniques

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/geneticgenealogytipsandtechniques>

Under “topics,” see posts regarding individual testing companies

Genetic DNA for Dummies

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/393020010880660/>

Genealogy and DNA for Beginners

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/genealogyanddnaforbeginners/>

Why don't my DNA results match who I thought I was

<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/dna/dna-identity/>

Begin by separating paternal DNA matches from maternal DNA matches

Review closest DNA matches (ideally, begin with second cousins); do you know who any of them are? Identifying second cousins is key to separating paternal from maternal matches. Review trees of second cousin DNA matches - - do their trees include ancestors you recognize? Look at the shared matches for each second cousin DNA match. Utilize notes feature and grouping tools whenever available in order to stay organized.

Evaluate closeness of each DNA match and cousinship estimates. Each DNA testing company provides a range of cousin relationship, estimated by the amount of DNA shared between you and your match. You can also see the quantity of shared centimorgans (cM) of DNA, and the number of shared segments. If the number of shared cM is the same, the match with fewer, but longer, segments will likely be a closer match.

Canada's History - - "Roots: Finding Family"

<https://www.canadashistory.ca/explore/genealogy/roots-finding-family>

The Genetic Genealogist - - Shared Centimorgan Project

<https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2015/05/29/the-shared-cm-project/>

Three excellent resources

RootsTech 2021

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021/>

Presentations on every conceivable genealogical topic, including many about using DNA results. Sessions for every research level, from beginning

to advanced. All sessions are available until RootsTech 2022. All sessions are free to view. Many DNA-related presentations.

Family Tree Magazine

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

Available in both printed and online format. Some free resources available on website; additional resources available by subscription; even more resources available for “premium” subscription. Many useful articles on diverse subjects, including genetic genealogy.

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

<https://familytreewebinars.com/>

Frequent free webinars, including many about DNA; some free recorded webinars available on website; additional resources, including hundreds of additional webinars, plus syllabi from all the webinars, available by subscription.

Things to remember

- * The DNA you inherit from each parent is random.
- * Your DNA results may reveal surprises.
- * Attach a family tree to your DNA results for best success.
- * Filter DNA results by examining shared matches; look for ancestors-in-common hints; your shared match list is key information!
- * Use the notes feature & grouping tools.

Send questions and comments regarding DNA SIG meetings to facilitators at:

staff@scgensoc.org

attention: Gail - - or - - attention: Maria

last updated: September 28, 2021