

Ancestry Tools for Genetic Genealogy: A Comprehensive Overview

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Introduction

DNA is evidence you can use to further your family history research. The key is understanding how your DNA Matches fit into your family tree. Ancestry Family Trees and AncestryDNA have evolved into a family of features designed to help make these discoveries easier. In this session, you will learn how to quickly identify relationship paths and common ancestors to accelerate your research. You will also learn how to document your DNA evidence in your family tree.

Understanding DNA Matches

Match Category	Possible Relationships	Shared Centimorgans (cMs)
Parent/Child	Mother, Father, Daughter, Son	3720-3300
Immediate Family	Brother, Sister	2200-2800
Close Family	Half-sister, Half-brother, Aunt, Uncle, Niece, Nephew, Grandmother, Grandfather, Granddaughter, Grandson	1300-2799
First Cousin	First cousin, great aunt or uncle, great nephew or niece, great grandparent	650-1299
Second Cousin	First cousin once removed, great great uncle or aunt, Second cousin, 1st cousin twice removed	200-649
Third Cousin	Second cousin once removed, Third cousin, 2nd Cousins (2x removed)	65-199
Fourth Cousin	3rd Cousins (1x removed), 2nd Cousins (3x removed), Fourth cousin, 3rd Cousins (2x removed)	20-64

Common Ancestors

Cousins: If someone is your first cousin, you have a common set of grandparents. If they are your second cousin you have a common set of great-grandparents. If they are your third cousin, you have a common set of great-great-grandparents. And so on.

Cousins Removed: If you are in the same generation (same distance back to the common ancestors on both sides) then you are cousins. If you are in different generations, then count the difference to determine the “removed.”

Half Relationships: If you are a half 1st cousin to someone, you have ONE grandparent in common, not both.

Why Does This Matter: The DNA gets cut in half each time you move a step away from the common ancestor(s).

Using Your DNA Match List

You want more ways to organize, sort and label your DNA Matches. We will walk you through our *new*, customizable features.

Four Goals in Genetic Genealogy

1. Prove connection to common ancestors using DNA evidence
 - a. If possible identify a genetic connection to a descendant of each child of a common ancestor.
 - b. Develop a DNA testing plan
2. Break through family history brick walls
 - a. Group DNA Matches looking for unidentified clusters
 - b. Identify common ancestors between matches
3. Figure out how I'm related to my DNA Matches
 - a. Identify potential common ancestor
 - b. Secure the information by adding them to your family tree
4. Connect with DNA Cousins to share family history information
 - a. Be open to sharing information
 - b. Be open to being wrong
 - c. Respond to messages
 - d. Keep it short & simple

Resources

- Survey link: https://ancestry.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eKgQnsgpDsmndxr
- Ancestry Facebook Page: <https://facebook.com/Ancestry>
- Recommended (Non-Ancestry Affiliated) Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/geneticgenealogytipsandtechniques/>
- DNA Playlist on the Ancestry YouTube Channel: <https://bit.ly/2K7POCj>