

# DNA Your Ancestry Test Results

Q1 - You have about 40,000 DNA matches – where do you start?

Q2 – Ancestry says that you and your cousin are not DNA matches – what now?

*Q2 – Ancestry says that you and your cousin are not DNA matches – what now?*

- Children inherit half of their DNA from their mothers and half from their fathers.
- Grandchildren inherit a quarter
- Great grandchildren inherit 1/8<sup>th</sup>
- Gt Gt grandchildren inherit 1/16<sup>th</sup>
- The simple answer is that after 4 generations (3<sup>rd</sup> cousins) a good match is less likely.
- You and your cousin might each have DNA from a common ancestor but not the same chunks of DNA – therefore you do not have a DNA match. It does not prove that you are not related. It only says that Ancestry cannot find a match.
- Talk to your cousin and check your list of matches. Can you find a common match?

*Q1 - You have 40,000 DNA matches – where do you start?*

- Groups and shared matches
- Starting with your best matches, assign some of your best matches to groups.
- You can create 24 groups and it is your choice. It is tempting to create a group for each great grandparent, but it might be more practical to create groups for an individual who is hard to identify, for just a few surnames or for locations. Whatever works for you.

*Shared Matches or Triangulation*

- Ancestry calls them Shared Matches; My Heritage calls them Triangulations.
- This happens when two of your matches share the same chunk of DNA with you and with each other.
- Ancestry only shows you Shared Matches of 20cM or more because the lower matches are not so reliable. My Heritage shows all your shared matches / triangulations.

*Adding DNA matches to groups*

- Clicking on the Shared Matches tab opens a new range of search options.
- Choose 'Common Ancestors'. Work through the list adding a note to each to identify the common ancestor and adding each match to a group. Check these often.
- Go to the Search icon (magnifying glass) to open up the search boxes:
  - 'Match Name' – for when you want to find another member of Ancestry.
  - 'Surname...' – search for all your main family surnames, adding the search results to groups.
  - 'location...' – try to match the location with places in the dropdown list from Ancestry, if possible.

- Return to the 'Groups' tab. From here you can open any group to look at the contents. Open the 'New Matches' group at the top of the list. Work through the new matches, putting them into groups if you can.
- New Matches are important. Most are below 20 cMs so will never show up in the Shared Matches list, but they do have shared matches. Sometimes you are lucky because a low New Match can easily match with one of your most important high matches. Be sure to cross reference each one in the notes and add them both to the same group so that you will never lose track of the useful low match!

#### *Now for the remaining 30,000 lower quality matches...*

- This is too big a job. Not everyone has time to comb through all these, and not all of the matches will be useful. They are just as important as New Matches, there are just too many of them. This is how to find the most relevant matches first:
- The searches you did in the previous section will have highlighted quite a few of those matches and added them to groups.
- Now you can widen your surname search to include as many surnames and locations from your wider tree as you wish. These can sometimes generate the best connections.
- Check 'Common Ancestors' every week or so for new additions.
- Use the 'Trees' tab to filter the list to show only matches with trees.
- Use the 'Unviewed' tab to filter out the viewed matches
- Use the 'Shared DNA' if you just want to look at, say, 15-16cMs.

#### *Trees and Messaging*

- By all means message a match to ask for more details, but a reply is a bonus. Many people take DNA tests to please a relative and don't want to get into conversations.
- You don't have to upload your tree; you could upload a 'bare bones' tree with just names and essential bmd information to help people make good matches with you.
- Matches without trees are still valuable. Work with groups, instead, to connect matches.
- Look at your groups, see if people in one group have also acquired coloured dots from other groups, especially if you have set up groups for individuals who you are trying to identify. The other matches in the groups might have trees that provide links to solve the mystery.

#### *Sharing your DNA results on other sites.*

- For a small fee you can share your results on other sites (except 23andme)
- You can't share tests from other sites with Ancestry or 23andme.
- Read the conditions and terms of use on all sites before you decide to share.
- Ancestry has the largest database, 23andme have the second largest database, My Heritage and the other companies have smaller databases. My Heritage is probably a good place to share your test results, if you wish, as it is easy and clear to work with.