

Some useful links if you are considering having your DNA analyzed

Different types of DNA tests

https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Y-DNA-mtDNA-and-Autosomal-DNA-Tests?language=en_US

Which companies offer which types of tests?

https://isogg.org/wiki/List_of_DNA_testing_companies

Most genealogical application of DNA use autosomal DNA testing Comparison for companies offering Autosomal DNA tests

<https://thednageek.com/dna-tests/>

Recommendations from NYTimes Wirecutter

<https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/reviews/best-dna-test/>

DNA testing from company X can only identify matches with individuals who have used company X.

There are at least two websites that hold the promise of broader matches. They allow you to upload your DNA report and it will check for matches across everyone else who has uploaded their DNA analysis regardless of which testing company they used. Both sites are currently free for basic matching. They offer more advanced features for a price.

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

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

DNA testing is such a fast changing field that some of the information in the links above is time dependent. New companies appear on a regular basis and all companies are adopting new techniques of analysis.

Some Important Caveats

If you choose to have your DNA analyzed you should carefully review the privacy policy of the company(s) you decide to use.

The following comments are adapted from the Wirecutter recommendations on DNA tests

Except in very close relationships, DNA alone can not tell you how you are related to matches. For example, it can tell you you are related to someone, but can not distinguish between a first cousin, a half aunt or half uncle, or a great-grandparent. DNA works best when working hand-in-hand with paper trail documentation

All of the genealogy experts we talked to stressed that unearthing family history takes a lot of work. And though DNA is a powerful tool, it is just as likely to raise questions as it is to answer them. To begin to answer the questions it raises, you need to turn to family documents, public records, and interviews.

You may not be comfortable with what you find. CeCe Moore, a genealogist who has worked as a consultant and producer on the PBS series *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.* and is the featured investigative genetic genealogist for the ABC series *The Genetic Detective*, said that anyone considering using a DNA service must be prepared for unexpected and sometimes [unsettling results](#). That's because although DNA can identify kin, it can also tell you who you're not related to. "We see it every single day," Moore said. "Sometimes—as with adoptions for instance—our paper trail does not represent our true genetic heritage."

In the course of testing for this guide, one of our participants learned that a parent was fathered by someone other than the person they grew up knowing as their grandfather, unearthing a family secret and placing a heavy and unwanted burden on our tester's shoulders.