

## I TOOK THE ANCESTRY DNA TEST....NOW WHAT SHOULD I DO ?

Many people (over 4 million) have taken the Ancestry DNA test to determine where they came from, ie., their ethnic origins . They get to see a nice colorful pie chart telling them what their DNA says about their origins. However, predicting where your ancestors originated based on your DNA test is just not that accurate yet. The actual percentages do vary quite a bit between the testing companies so it is easy to see that more improvement is needed. This is all very interesting and I might add expensive but there is a lot more you can do with your DNA test results than read a pie chart and also get more for your money.

Ancestry DNA is very limited and does not offer the tools , such as a chromosome browser to analyze your raw DNA data and be able to validate and further research your genealogical history. They do tell you the amount of centimorgans in your match but they do not tell you where they are located. They will tell you who shares your match with you but you can not determine where and why they match without a chromosome browser. To make the most use of your DNA test it is best to get your raw data into other DNA databases that offer the tools to analyze your test results and make connections with cousins/ relatives you never knew existed.

### HOW DO I DO THAT?

The first step in the process is to go to your Ancestry DNA page and find “settings” in the top right corner. Click on “settings” and then download your raw data to a file on your computer. Just follow the prompts. The file will be called a “zip” file and you should **never open** this file. You can rename the file or simply place it in a location on your computer that you will be able to find it later. Keep track of where you place it **AND ITS NAME!**

The two best sites for DNA analysis and sharing research are **Gedmatch.com** and **“Family TreeDNA”** (Family Finder). These are the sites you will want to upload your raw DNA file to. Both of these sites offer excellent tools to analyze yours and others DNA data. To get started.....

Google Gedmatch.com and at their home page you can register with a user name and password all for free. Once you are a registered user you will find upload instructions on the home page....for Ancestry use the “fast generic upload”. Gedmatch will walk you thru the process including finding ( browser) the raw DNA data file and answer their questions and once uploaded you will wait a few

days for processing. You will get a Kit # from Gedmatch for future use so keep it in a safe place. Then you can start to explore all those new DNA matches.



Now go to [www.familytreedna.com/login.aspx](http://www.familytreedna.com/login.aspx) and on the top bar (left) you will see DNA Tests, click and there is a drop down menu and choose autosomal transfer. Then register on their site for free. Family Tree DNA is a DNA testing site with a huge data base and they allow Ancestry members to upload their raw data files for free to enhance their data base. They will email you a user name and password so that you can upload your raw DNA data file and once again they will walk you thru the process. This process is less complicated than Gedmatch. Once again after the upload you will need to wait a few hours/ days for the information to process. In order to use all the tools available at “family finder” you will need to pay a one time fee of \$19.00. When you click on one of the tools ie., family origins” a message will alert you to the fact that you need to unlock the information/ tools by paying the \$19.00 and I can assure you they are worth every penny. Now you will see many of the same DNA matches that were on Ancestry and Gedmatch but now you can use the analytical tools to match up with other test takers and see how and to what degree and why you match. The learning curve is slow so be patient and you will understand as you experiment with the chromosome browser. All of the new matches will be listed with email addresses and names for identification purposes. Many will list surnames so that you might be able to identify a common ancestor.

**YOU ARE NOT FINISHED QUITE YET!**

If you are a Facebook user you will want to subscribe to two DNA groups to help you understand what you can do with these new sites. You can ask questions and get answers to some very common questions. The 2 groups are “Gedmatch User group” and “FTDNA User group”. You must ask to become a member of the group and you will then be admitted and can ask questions and monitor answers. I have personally learned a great deal about DNA and how to use the tools at these sites from these 2 groups.

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