

# What Can You Do With Your DNA?

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<p><b>Basics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Understand It</b> – Learn about DNA<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Blaine Bettinger’s Book – “<i>Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy</i>”</li><li>○ YouTube Videos – Crista Cowen, Family History Fanatics, Genealogy TV</li><li>○ Join a DNA Special Interest Group</li><li>○ Terms to Understand – centimorgans, haplogroups, relationships (1C1R), inheritance, NPE, recombination, MRCA, segments, chromosomes, endogamy, and more.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Support It</b> – With a Tree!<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Fill out your profile – surnames and locations</li><li>○ Mark people deceased</li><li>○ Go out 4 generations, fill out whatever you know.</li><li>○ Names are key – add siblings and their spouses (very important for females)</li><li>○ Make it public!</li><li>○ Use a subset of your tree if appropriate</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Download It</b> - Download your Raw DNA file<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ DO NOT open the file – save it as a zip file</li></ul></li></ul>	<p><b>In-Depth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Filter and Tag It</b> – Use filters to sort through your matches. Mark your matches using tags and colors to divide them into known groups.</li><li>• <b>Cluster It</b> – Use a clustering technique to sort your matches into related clusters<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Basic – Shared Matches tools from the testing companies</li><li>○ Manual – Leeds Method</li><li>○ Automated – Genetic Affairs, MyHeritage, GEDMatch</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Target It</b> – Break down your brick walls through targeted testing. Find cousins to test on the lines you are focusing on.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Track descendants of siblings of the generation below the mystery ancestor. Track descendant of siblings of the mystery ancestor.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Validate It</b> – Match your test results to your genealogical research. DNA is just one record type that can be used to confirm or disprove your genealogical conclusions.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Does this match what you already know? If so, this is evidence that supports your “proof statements”.</li><li>○ If not, do you need to review your research?</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Expand It</b> – Try an additional test type<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Y-DNA for your father’s, father’s, father’s line</li><li>○ Mitochondrial (MtDNA) for DNA all people get from their mothers only.</li></ul></li></ul>
<p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Explore It</b> – Read the definitions, history and migration information on your testing company website(s). These sites have lots of terrific detail to explore</li><li>• <b>Transfer It</b> – spread your DNA around<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ No Uploads Possible – Ancestry and 23andMe</li><li>○ Upload to – MyHeritage, FamilyTreeDNA (FTDNA) and LivingDNA</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Compare It</b> – The power of DNA is that it can help break through those brick walls. If you want the pots of gold at the end of the rainbow, you need the leprechauns. The leprechauns in DNA are MATCHES!</li><li>• <b>Connect It</b> – Reach out to your matches. Be persistent, don’t give up, don’t stop with just a few.... AND <u>please</u> respond to the queries that come your way. It is never too late.</li></ul>	<p><b>On-Going</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Re-Check It</b> – Don’t just let it sit. Every day there can be:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ New Information</li><li>○ New Matches</li><li>○ New Tools</li><li>○ New Contacts</li><li>○ New Emails</li></ul></li></ul> <p><b>Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Working with your DNA Matches - <a href="https://www.legacytree.com/blog/understanding-ancestrydna-matches">https://www.legacytree.com/blog/understanding-ancestrydna-matches</a></li><li>• ISOGG Wiki - International Society of Genetic Genealogy <a href="https://isogg.org/wiki/Wiki_Welcome_Page">https://isogg.org/wiki/Wiki_Welcome_Page</a> - great reference info</li><li>• Leeds Method – sorting your matches - <a href="https://www.danaleeds.com/the-leeds-method/">https://www.danaleeds.com/the-leeds-method/</a></li><li>• Your DNA Guide - <a href="https://www.yourdnaguide.com/resources">https://www.yourdnaguide.com/resources</a></li><li>• Cyndi’s List – DNA &gt; Analysis Tools and Utilities - <a href="https://www.cyndislist.com/dna/analysis/">https://www.cyndislist.com/dna/analysis/</a></li><li>• Transferring your DNA to another site - <a href="https://dna-explained.com/2019/11/04/dna-file-upload-download-and-transfer-instructions-to-and-from-dna-testing-companies/">https://dna-explained.com/2019/11/04/dna-file-upload-download-and-transfer-instructions-to-and-from-dna-testing-companies/</a></li></ul>