



Ancestry DNA Steps

Tick off all those steps which you have completed and work on the rest! Ask for help if needed.

1. If you haven't already done so, open an Ancestry account – a free one is fine at the start
2. Go through your account settings and complete them, including your public profile
3. Start to build your family tree on Ancestry, direct ancestors first and then add the branches
4. Add the 'Direct Ancestor' image to the gallery of each direct ancestor and make this their profile picture (ask if you don't have this image and I'll email it to you)
5. Order your Ancestry DNA test when there's an offer on, take the test and send it off
6. Link your test to yourself on your Ancestry Family Tree
7. If you have a smartphone, download the Ancestry App and the Ancestry DNA App
8. Go through your DNA settings and adjust as you wish
9. When your DNA results arrive, look at your ethnicity and see if it matches expectations
10. See if you can decide whether Parent 1 or 2 is your Mother or Father
11. Download your DNA and save on your computer, to upload to GEDmatch etc. (Handout DNA Session 4)
12. Check out the info you get when clicking on the ? on the front screen of your DNA results
13. Filter your matches on 'Common Ancestors' and go through each one, labelling as to whether Mother's Side or Father's Side, and confirming the relationship with you
14. Complete your colour groupings on Ancestry – read 'Grouping Your DNA Matches'
15. Work on your shared matches – Read 'Shared Matches on Ancestry DNA'
16. Don't forget about your 'Centimorgan Relationships Chart' – it can help with possible relationships
17. Learn about endogamy – Read 'Endogamy'
18. Consider all your Thrulines, which give you even more information if you have a subscription – Read 'Thrulines'
19. Add your confirmed DNA Matches to your tree and mark them with a DNA logo as their profile image and follow the line of people back up to your common ancestor, adding the image 'LINE PROVEN THROUGH DNA' to the gallery of the person in each generation, making it their profile picture
20. Look for shared surnames and locations and use the 'Search' facility
21. Contact whichever of your matches you want, through Ancestry Messages
22. When you know a match is on e.g. your mother's side, but you don't know the actual connection, try working that person's tree back through the generations, checking locations and surnames to see if you can find the link – you can use 'floating trees' (ask if you missed this session earlier in 2022)
23. Check out Ancestry Message Boards for the surname or place you're interested in
24. Don't forget about the help available free online through Ancestry Academy and Ancestry Support
25. Check out useful blogs such as

<https://blogs.ancestry.co.uk/ancestry> (ancestry.co.uk)

<https://mossiesmusings.blogspot.com> (Christine Woodlands)

<https://genie1.com.au/blog> (Louise Coakley)

<https://thednageek.com> (Leah Larkin)

26. Think about getting other relatives on both sides of your tree to test - the older the better
27. Make sure you check each day, if possible, for new matches by filtering on the Menu
28. Record any good 'finds' or brick walls broken down as a result of your DNA test results, so you can share them with others
29. Upload your DNA to GEDmatch and My Heritage and start to use these websites (see Handout DNA Session 4)
30. Encourage other DNA smatches and family members to also upload to GEDmatch and My Heritage to enable comparison and analysis using the tools on these sites.