

Shared Matches in Ancestry DNA



Looking at your Shared Matches in Ancestry is another important part of your analysis of your DNA results.

By now, you should have gone through your 'Common Ancestors', checking that you agree with the relationships suggested by Ancestry and recording which side of the family tree each is on, and what their relationship is to you. Then you can set up your colour groups and start attaching colours to each common ancestor.

You may also be aware of your relationship with some other of your matches, which may not be labelled as common matches because either they don't have a tree at all on Ancestry, or because they haven't gone as far back as your common ancestor. These people can also be attached to the relevant group.

Then we move on to Shared Matches. When you click on the name of your closest match with whom you know your relationship (apart from a sibling), a page will open which gives you more detail about that match and you will see the tab for shared matches:

You and Jane Waugh
1st cousin 1x removed | Mother's side
9% shared DNA: 596 cM across 28 segments
Message

Common Ancestors

How are you and Jane Waugh related?
Common Ancestors
According to Ancestry member trees, these are the common ancestors that connect you and Jane Waugh. View a common ancestor to see the relationship path that connects you.
Jane Waugh could be your 1st cousin 1x removed through:
Samuel Robert Neill
Maternal grandfather
1877-1952
Elizabeth Sturgeon
Maternal grandmother
1871-1946

Jane Waugh's Linked Tree 311 People
This is a preview of the public tree linked to Jane Waugh's DNA results. Surnames that appear in both your tree and Jane Waugh's tree are marked in green.
View full tree

Shared Matches

Match Name	Relationship	Shared DNA	Tree Status	Recognize?
Jake Smith	Parent/Child	3,481 cM 50% shared DNA	Unlinked Tree	Do you recognize them? Yes Learn more
Shelly Waugh	2nd - 3rd Cousin	170 cM 2% shared DNA	No Trees	Do you recognize them? Yes Learn more
LEE HACKETT	2nd - 3rd Cousin	166 cM 2% shared DNA	Public linked tree 8 People	Do you recognize them? Yes Learn more
Kathy Rayno	2nd - 3rd Cousin	160 cM 2% shared DNA	Public linked tree 4 People	Do you recognize them? Yes Learn more

Click on this tab and you will get a list of all those DNA matches who match you and the person you are looking at:

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1st cousin 1x removed | Mother's side
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Shared Matches

Filter by: Unviewed Common ancestors Messaged Notes Trees Groups Search Sort

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Jeremiah will now know that all these shared matches with Jane Waugh are on his mother's side of the tree, because that's where Jane originates. He can therefore go through those matches and mark them all as 'Mother's side' even though he may not know their exact relationship to him. However, the possibilities are now narrowed down to one side of his tree and he can look for the 4 surnames of his maternal great grandparents if his matches have provided a family tree.

If you have had a parent who has tested, then this is where to start, as you will immediately be able to label as 'Mother's Side' or 'Father's Side' all the shared matches with that parent.

If your closest match is a cousin rather than a parent, then pick another close matched cousin whose relationship you know, and check out their shared matches, labelling any that you haven't yet identified.

It's possible that when you click a person's Shared Matches tab, you'll see a message that you two have no shared matches. It simply means that no other cousins who share DNA with both you and this match have tested—yet. Check back frequently for new matches.

You could also have cousins who match on both sides of your tree

A word of warning! Just because you and another person have a Shared Match, doesn't mean that all three of you have the *same* segment of DNA. In other words, you all don't necessarily have the *same* common ancestor. Why?

- You're A, and you match B. You and B have a Shared Match with C.
- You match B because your Dad is first cousins with B's Mum.
- You match C because your Mum is second cousins with C's Dad.
- But B matches C because B's Dad is cousin to C's Mum!

In this case, you share a DNA segment with B and a *different* DNA segment with C, and B and C share yet a *third* DNA segment. All the shared matches tool tells you is that A and C match each other and both A and B match C. This is where GEDmatch can help and we'll look at this later in the DNA project.

Have a look at this video about Ancestry Shared Matches from Family History Fanatics!

https://youtu.be/ffJ_k34eIEE

For those of you who are more advanced, you might find this video on sub-clustering your shared matches to be of use: (Those who are just starting out shouldn't watch this one yet!)

https://youtu.be/6ApidzEyA_k