

MyHeritage DNA Tools

MyHeritage has many DNA tools available to help you manage your matches and find your relatives. MyHeritage has many testers in their database from outside the US. This is helpful if you're looking for relatives in Europe.

You have two options for getting DNA results from MyHeritage.

- 1) Buy a MyHeritage DNA Test kit – this is a cheek swab kit
- 2) Upload your results from another DNA testing company – Ancestry, 23andMe, FamilyTree DNA, Living DNA

To get any DNA results from MyHeritage, you will need to create an account with MyHeritage. This requires an email address.

There are several sections to the DNA results from MyHeritage.

Overview

This area contains an overview of ethnicity, matches, locations of your matches, and ethnicities of your matches.

The overview of ethnicity contains the general locations for the highest percentages of your DNA. You can click on this for further details on your ethnicity.

Matches sort into close family, extended family, and distant relatives. The close family is immediate family to 1st cousins. The extended family are 1st cousins once removed to 2nd cousins once removed. The distant relatives are 3rd cousins or more distant cousins. The distant relatives will have the smallest amount of cM in common with you.

The locations allow you to see what countries your matches are from. DNA testing is very popular in the USA and a high number of the matches will probably be from the USA.

The ethnicity of your matches shows the number of matches you have by ethnicity.

Ethnicity Estimates

These are estimates based on reference populations. The reference population is DNA from families that have been in a specific area for some time. Your DNA is compared to them to estimate how similar your DNA is to specific genetic characteristics for people in that region.

From the MyHeritage website: "Remember that your Ethnicity Estimates — which are the result of a highly accurate statistical algorithm — are still estimates. Some global populations exhibit similar DNA due to proximity and the mingling of populations."

You can click on each region to find out more about the history and people of that region.

This section also contains Genetic Groups. Many of our ancestors migrated together. This shows you where your DNA is associated with many other people's DNA based on similar DNA being grouped together. These are a good indication of where in the world your ancestors migrated to. You can see which of your DNA matches are in your genetic groups.

Genetic groups has a confidence level setting. You can adjust this high, medium, or low. This is how confident the algorithm is that you are truly a part of these groups. Start with high and then expand out as you'd like.

Adjust the timing of the genetic group by sliding the slider bar at the bottom of the image to the left or right. As you scroll down on the left you'll see common locations and surnames that may be helpful in your research.

Matches

This gets into the fun stuff. It's great to see how much you're related to people you may know, and you can connect with people you don't know who may help with those brick walls.

This section starts with an overall list of your DNA matches.

You can determine which matches you see in a couple of ways:

- Filter: Labels, Tree Details, Relationships, Locations, Ethnicities, Genetic Groups
- Sort: shared DNA, shared segments, largest segments, full name, most recent

Use these to make it easier to track/view your matches.

You can also search for a specific match. Also, you can download all of your matches and/or download all the shared segments of your matches.

You can next review a match. This gives you a lot of information about how you and that match compare to each other. This does depend on how much information that match has on MyHeritage.

When looking at the possible relationship, make sure to click on the ? for help with a chart of who the most recent common ancestor might be. This can be useful when providing surnames to your matches to try to determine how you are related.

If a match has a large, well sourced, family tree, then it's more likely that you'll get additional information per match. This information can be useful in determining how you are related to a match. It also allows the system to try and determine how you are related to a match creating a "Theory of Family Relativity".

You can use the label feature to group matches together to make it easier to keep track of matches you have already reviewed. You can add notes to matches as well to identify how you are related.

In the chromosome browser section of your matches, you can use the advanced options to download information on your shared segments. This information can be mapped with others using the MyHeritage Chromosome browser or third-party tools like DNA Painter.

DNA Tools

This section includes 3 tools for evaluating your DNA: the chromosome browser, AutoClusters, and Ethnicity Maps.

Chromosome Browser

In the Chromosome Browser you can compare what DNA you have in common with your matches and what DNA your matches have in common with each other.

If your matches have DNA in common with each other and with you, they show up as triangulated segments.

You can compare up to 7 of your matches. For triangulated segments you can change the cM size to eliminate or include smaller segments as needed.

AutoClusters

This tool clusters your matches into groups likely descended from the same ancestor. You select a kit that you want to generate a report for and then it will email the information to you. The nice feature is it does have the matches for each cluster listed in a table. If you know how you are related to one match in that table, then you have a starting point for how you are related to the other matches in that table.

Ethnicity Maps

Based on the data from MyHeritage DNA users, this tool shows you “the most common ethnicities in each country and the top countries for each ethnicity” according to MyHeritage. This is interesting to look at based on the DNA samples at MyHeritage which ethnicities have ended up where in the world.

Health Reports

You can now get a variety of health reports from MyHeritage based on your DNA. It does require that you have a MyHeritage DNA sample. This can't be done with uploaded kits. You'll have access to 48 health reports including 27 carrier status reports. It also includes access to a physician and genetic counselors to discuss your health results.

Manage Multiple Kits

You can upload raw results from other vendors to MyHeritage. When you upload kits, **make sure you assign the results to the appropriate person.**

From this page, you can see the status of the kit, delete kits, assign a kit to another person, and view results for a kit.

Upload DNA data

If you've taken a test at another DNA company, you can download your raw data and upload it to MyHeritage. MyHeritage currently supports uploads from FamilyTreeDNA, 23andMe, Ancestry, and Living DNA. There are detailed instructions on the website for how to download your data from the other sites.

Resources:

MyHeritage Blog on DNA <https://blog.myheritage.com/category/dna/>

MyHeritage – Everything you wanted to know about the MyHeritage DNA Test:

<https://blog.myheritage.com/2021/11/myheritage-dna-everything-you-wanted-to-know-about-the-myheritage-dna-test/>

DNA Painter: <https://dnainter.com/>