

DIY DNA Workbook

Researching Unknown Parentage Using DNA



Testing, Trees, and Transfers

- i. Perform an autosomal DNA test at AncestryDNA and at 23andMe.
- ii. If possible, write down anything you know about your biological family through your great-grandparents, including their birth/marriage/death dates and locations wherever possible. Include your ancestors' siblings and their children and spouses if you can. If you don't have any information, that's ok!

Worksheet: Known Ancestors and Families

Known Ancestors and Families							
Name	Relationship	Birth Dt	Birthplace	Marr Dt	Marr Place	Death Dt	Death Place

- iii. Use people in worksheet 'Known Ancestors and Families' to build an online family tree at a site that provides record hints, such as Ancestry or MyHeritage.
- iv. When test results are in, transfer them to MyHeritage DNA, FamilyTreeDNA and GEDmatch.

Worksheet: Account Logins

Account Logins		
Testing Company	Login ID	Password



Ethnicity and Known Matches

- i. Explore ethnicity predictions at 23andMe and AncestryDNA.

Worksheet: Ethnicity Predictions

Ethnicity Predictions		
Testing Company	Ethnicity (those $\geq$ 5%)	%

- ii. If one side of your parentage is known, identify all DNA matches that you know at all testing companies up through predicted second cousin. Verify they are included in your tree or add them, if not.

Worksheet: Known Matches

Known Matches		
Testing Company	Username (and manager, if any)	cM

- iii. Create a table of matches through third cousin who are shared with the known matches you identified at all companies. These shared matches can also be assumed to be on your known side.

Worksheet: Shared Matches

Shared Matches		
Testing Company	Username (and manager, if any)	cM



Unknown Matches

- i. Create a table of the remaining matches through third cousin at all companies, including ancestral surnames and locations, if provided.
- ii. Add possible relationships and their probabilities.
- iii. Look for surnames in common. Build a tree for related matches to identify their common ancestors, connecting in as many matches as possible.

Worksheet: Unknown Matches*

Unknown Matches					
Company	Username (and mgr., if any)	Surnames, Locations, Age	cM	Most Likely Relationships	Probability

* Modifications are needed if both paternal and maternal sides are unknown or for unknown grandparent cases.



Identify Birth Family Candidates

- i. Use the What Are the Odds (WATO) tool at DNA Painter to re-create this tree.
- ii. Hypothesize places where you could feasibly fit in.
- iii. Identify the best birth family candidate(s), taking into account factors such as birth and death years, locations, etc.



Verify Birth Family Candidate

i. Copy the unknown DNA matches you were able to connect into your tree from your **Unknown Matches** table in Step 3 above, including their most likely relationships to you and the probabilities. Then place the most likely birth parent candidate you identified in Step 4 into your tree as your parent. Compare the matches' resulting relationships to you in the tree with those predicted by the DNA.

Relationship Comparison					
Username	Full Name	cM	Most Likely Relationship(s)	Probability	Determined Relationship**

**assuming Candidate Name as Relationship (e.g., assuming Joe Doe as Father)

- ii. Trace the candidate(s) forward in your tree to identify living testing candidates whose results could confirm or refute the proposed relationships.
- iii. Locate their contact information using people-finding websites (best ones are fee-based).

Worksheet: Contact Information

Contact Information				
Name	Address	Telephone	Email	Social Media

Additional Resources:

Contacting Your Birth Parent or Siblings

<https://www.legacytree.com/blog/how-do-i-contact-my-birth-parent-or-sibling>

DNA Surprises and Your Family Tree

<https://legacytree.com/resources>

Appendix:

Need more space? We've got you covered!



Known Ancestors and Families

[illegible]



www.legacytree.com/diydna



www.legacytree.com/diydna



**assuming Candidate Name as Relationship (e.g., assuming Joe Doe as Father)



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