

Guide to DNA Testing

**How to Identify Ancestors,
Confirm Relationships,
and Measure Ethnic Ancestry
through DNA Testing**



Richard Hill

Richard Hill's Guide to DNA Testing

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INTRODUCTION



My name is Richard Hill. Adopted at birth, my decades long search for birth families was featured on the front pages of *The Wall Street Journal* and other publications.

What made my story unusual is my use of DNA testing to identify and confirm my long-deceased birth father. Thanks to my breakthrough, many other adoptees are now using DNA to discover and reunite with their birth families.

Once I had biological families to trace, I dove deeply into genealogy. Now I'm using more DNA tests to expand my children's family tree.

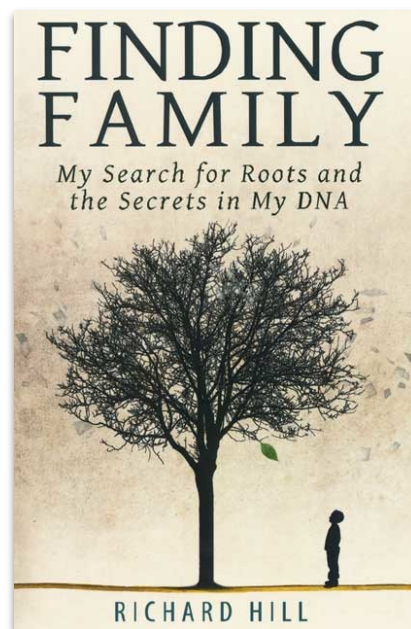
My goal is to share what I learn with adoptees, genealogists, and others. By using the DNA tests that have helped me, many more people can find their families and confirm suspected relationships.

This Guide, an easy-to-read overview, can help you devise your own DNA testing plan.

You can learn even more about the subject through my web site [DNA Testing Adviser](#), my blog [DNA Testing Update](#), and my [Facebook Page](#).

I also give presentations on DNA testing and adoption search. You can check my speaking schedule at [this page](#).

For the full story, of course, you will want to read my book, ***Finding Family: My Search for Roots and the Secrets in My DNA***. You can order it in print or Kindle format at [amazon.com](#). For other eBook formats, see [Smashwords](#).



NOTE: If you decide to order any DNA tests, you will need to order them directly from the labs that do the testing. While I write about the subject, I do NOT sell DNA tests.

WHAT DNA TESTING CAN DO FOR YOU

Everyone has DNA. While your DNA is different than mine, it is quite similar to that of your parents and other people in your family tree. That makes DNA ideal for relationship testing of two presumed relatives.

The classic relationship test is the DNA paternity test. Comparing a child's DNA with a suspected father can determine—without any doubt—whether or not that man fathered the child.

Today, DNA can also confirm other relationships, like siblings, half siblings, grandparent and grandchild, and aunt/uncle and nephew/niece. The more distant the relationship the less DNA you have in common. But you can detect many distant cousins.

You can learn a lot from just testing yourself.

There are large and growing databases of people who have already taken the most popular tests. By testing yourself, you will learn who you match. Over time, you will see additional matches as more people get tested.

Combining family tree information from your matches with what the DNA says about your relationship is what leads to new discoveries in YOUR family tree. For example...



- Genealogists are using DNA tests to get around their “brick walls” where the paper trail ends.
- Adoptees are overcoming family secrets, sealed records and even outright lies to discover and reunite with their biological families.
- People curious about their ethnic ancestry are learning what parts of the world their ancestors came from.
- Adults who learn that the man who raised them was not their biological father are identifying previously unknown fathers.
- Children of sperm and egg donors are testing their DNA hoping to find biological parents and siblings.

WHY PEOPLE ARE CONFUSED ABOUT DNA TESTING

There are four factors that confuse people about DNA testing. Read on to see how this guide deals with each of them. After completing this overview, you will be able to make test decisions with confidence.

1. The Boring Science Lesson

Try searching "DNA" online. You will see a lot about the structure of DNA, the replication process, and many other things that make your eyes glaze over. While many people find this interesting, you do not need a biology class to use DNA tests effectively.

I keep the science talk to an absolute minimum, noting key principles where necessary.

2. Many Test Types

There are many different types of DNA testing. Pick the wrong test for your situation and you won't get the results you seek. Even worse, you will waste your time and money.

I describe and compare the major test types, explaining their purposes, strengths and limitations.

3. Many Competing Test Labs

Many labs offer similar sounding products. Yet ordering your test from the wrong lab can severely limit the usefulness of your results.

I tell you which companies I use when spending my own money.

4. Different Testing Levels

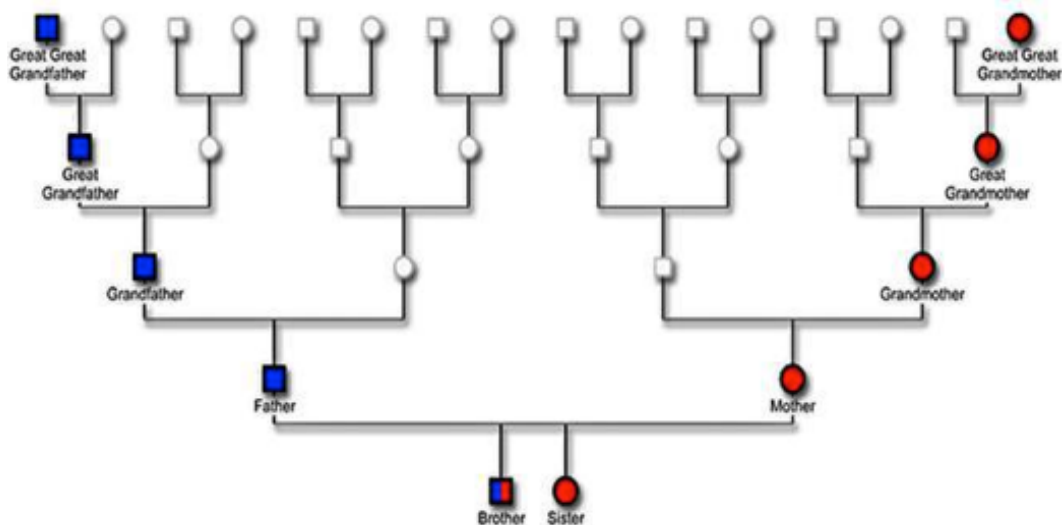
For some tests there are different testing levels at successively higher prices. Information from the least expensive test is often useless for genealogical purposes. Yet the highest level may be unnecessary.

I note the current "sweet spots" where you get the most value.



HOW DNA PASSES DOWN THE FAMILY TREE

Everyone has a biological family tree, even if you're unaware of anyone but yourself. You have two parents, four grandparents, eight great-grandparents etc. You need to understand three types of DNA and how each type passes down the family tree. In the following family tree squares represent men and circles represent women.



1. Autosomal DNA (abbreviated atDNA) passes down from ALL your ancestors. At each conception, a child receives approximately 50% of this DNA from each parent. But which 50% you get is random. So your siblings may get a different mix and you will probably not inherit equal amounts from each grandparent.

After five generations or so, the amount of DNA you have in common with any particular ancestor may or may not be detectable. So in terms of your family tree, think of autosomal DNA testing as having a *broad* but relatively *shallow* reach.

2. Y-DNA focuses on the Y chromosome, which men inherit from their father, who got it from their father etc. So Y-DNA testing covers the direct paternal line as indicated in blue. Since the Y chromosome passes on mostly unchanged, it can help trace your PATERNAL ancestry back hundreds of years.

Your direct paternal line is just a tiny part of your overall ancestry. So think of Y-DNA testing as a *narrow* but *deep* test of your family tree.

3. Mitochondrial DNA (abbreviated mtDNA) is a type of DNA that mothers pass on to all their children. Both men and women have mtDNA but only women pass it on.

Indicated above in red, mtDNA can help trace your MATERNAL ancestry back hundreds of years. Like Y-DNA testing, it's a *narrow* but *deep* test of your family tree.

AUTOSOMAL DNA TESTING

Powerful, Inexpensive Tests For Everyone

Today the most cost-effective testing investments in genetic genealogy are these three autosomal DNA tests. Each checks about 700,000 locations on your chromosomes. Both men and women can take these tests and your matches can be from any branch of your family tree.

[Family Finder](#)
from Family Tree DNA

[23andMe](#)
from 23andMe

[AncestryDNA](#)
from Ancestry.com

Just a few years ago, the first tests cost around \$400 each. Thanks to competition and improved technology, each one is now priced at less than \$100. Click the above links to see current pricing and learn more directly from each testing lab.

While each test has different features and strengths, I recommend that adoptees and serious genealogists take all three of them.

Why Do Them All?

Since most people take only one of these three tests, the databases are quite different. There is no way to tell in advance which test will produce the closest or most useful matches. Now that you can get into all three databases for a total investment of under \$300, I encourage you to do so.

NOTE: The AncestryDNA test is currently only offered to U.S. residents.

Save a Little More Money

Family Tree DNA is the only company to ever accept transfers from the other two autosomal tests. A transfer costs less than a new test and you don't have to submit another DNA sample. They just work with the raw data from your original test.

Unfortunately, only one version of the 23andMe data (V3) is compatible. Earlier versions (V1 and V2) and the current V4 version are incompatible and cannot be transferred. The AncestryDNA test, which has had only one version so far, can be transferred.

If you already have results from a qualifying test, go to [Family Tree DNA](#), click DNA Tests at the top of the page, then select Autosomal Transfer to order.

Uncovering Previously Unknown Relatives

If you and another person have several long segments of DNA in common, that outcome cannot be coincidental. You must both have inherited those segments from common ancestors.

The more segments you share and the longer the length of those segments, the more common ancestors you have...and the more closely related you are.

If your family has been in the U.S. for many generations, you are likely to discover hundreds of matches in each company's database.

Making contact with these cousins and/or reviewing their online family trees can get you beyond a genealogical brick wall or provide new information about shared ancestors.

NOTE: All three testing companies are based in the United States and their databases are heavily weighted with Americans. If your recent biological ancestors lived elsewhere, you may get far fewer matches.

You may still want to try [Family Finder](#), which has the most international database of the three tests. Sadly, none of the tests have significant numbers from Asia.



Example of a Match Report

Below is the first page of my [Family Finder](#) Matches page. You usually see the full names of your matches on Family Tree DNA tests. I simply covered my match names for their privacy. The icons below the name allow you to email them, record notes, view family trees (when provided), and filter your results to only see matches you have In Common or Not In Common. You can sort by any column and search for names or ancestral surnames (when provided).

myFTDNA Family Tree DNA

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Welcome, Richard Harold Hill - Kit No: [redacted] Logout

Home | My Account | Projects | Family Finder | Y-DNA | mtDNA | Other Results | Resources | Order An Upgrade

FAMILY FINDER - MATCHES | Feedback | Refer Friends & Family | Page Tour

Relations: Show All Matches | Sort By: Shared cM | Name: | Ancestral Surnames: Apply

Show Full View	Match Date	Relationship Range	Known Relationship	Shared cM	Ancestral Surnames
Name	11/19/2013		Half Brother	1878.07	
Name	2/16/2012		Half Sister	1764.57	
Name	2/22/2012		Half Brother	1622.69	
Name	12/29/2011		1st Cousin	992.89	
Name	12/20/2013	2nd Cousin - 4th Cousin		71.19	
Name	9/25/2013	2nd Cousin - 4th Cousin		69.95	Davis (Kentucky)...
Name	11/1/2013	2nd Cousin - 4th Cousin		69.83	

Powerful Tools for Adoptees

These three autosomal tests are helping adoptees overcome sealed records to discover and reunite with birth families.

The process can be remarkably easy or require quite a bit of work. It all depends on how close your matches turn out to be.

That's why adoptees really need to take all three autosomal tests to exhaust every possibility of finding a close match.

At best, you will get a direct match to a parent, sibling, or half sibling. This doesn't happen often; but it is becoming more common as the databases get bigger.



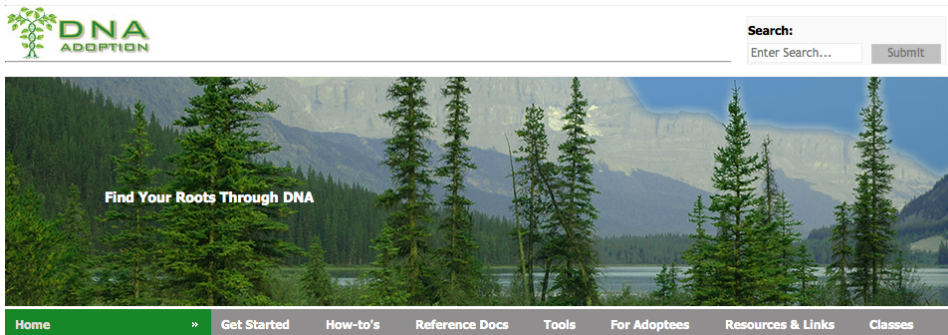
Nearly as good is a match to a first or second cousin. By contacting that match and/or researching the person's family tree, you can usually find a branch of the family that lived in the time and place of your birth.

Even if your closest matches are third or fourth cousins, there is still a methodology that can uncover the truth of your origins.

Basically, you find two or more people who are genetically in common with you and each other and have overlapping segments on the same chromosome. Adoptees don't yet have a family tree but your matches probably do. And there's a good chance that *their* common ancestor is *your* ancestor too.

You can use reverse genealogy to follow that common ancestor's descendants forward in time to discover probable close relatives.

The complete methodology, information about tools to implement it, and an active discussion group can be found at DNAAdoption.com. This wonderful site, staffed by volunteer search angels and supported by donations, is the place to go for help AFTER you get your autosomal DNA results.



Confirming Close Relationships

Even though the amount of shared DNA gets cut roughly in half with each generation, these autosomal tests are a great way for adoptees and others to confirm suspected relationships.

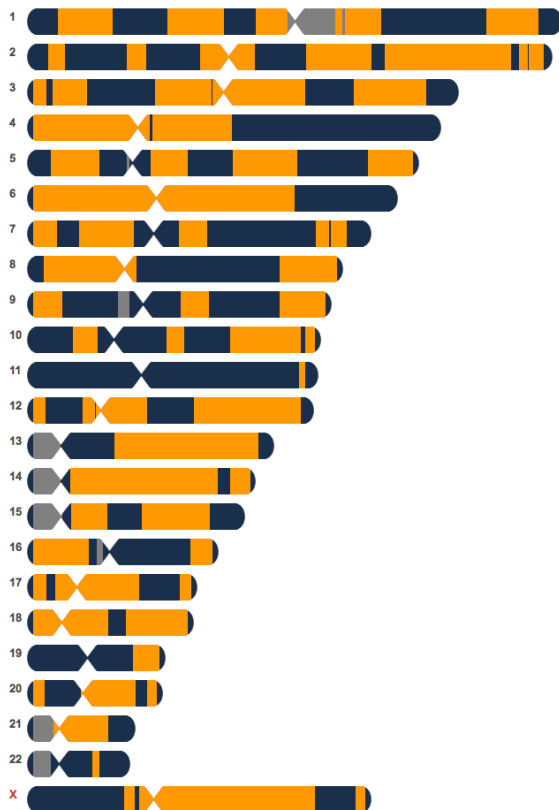
The percentage of shared DNA will vary somewhat from the norms of the following table. Yet there is rarely any overlap among the top three relationship levels.

Shared DNA in Typical Relationships

RELATIONSHIP PAIRS	SHARED DNA
Full Siblings, Parent-Child	50%
Half Siblings, Aunt/Uncle-Nephew/Niece, Grandparent-Grandchild	25%
First Cousins (two common grandparents)	12.5%
Half Cousins (one common grandparent)	6.25%

I did all my testing of close relatives through [23andMe](#) and [Family Finder](#). Each has proven to be excellent for this purpose. Since I have not personally seen how close relatives appear on AncestryDNA, I am less prone to recommend it for those who only want to compare two people.

Two examples of Chromosome Browser results on Family Finder are shown below. Regions with DNA segments in common with me are shown in color for my maternal half brother (LEFT) and five 2nd to 4th cousins (RIGHT). 23andMe also has a chromosome browser. AncestryDNA does not.



Measuring Ethnic Ancestry

Each of these three autosomal DNA tests includes a report on your ethnic ancestry. They use different population data for reference and follow different processes for determining your mix. So your results may come out a little different in the details.

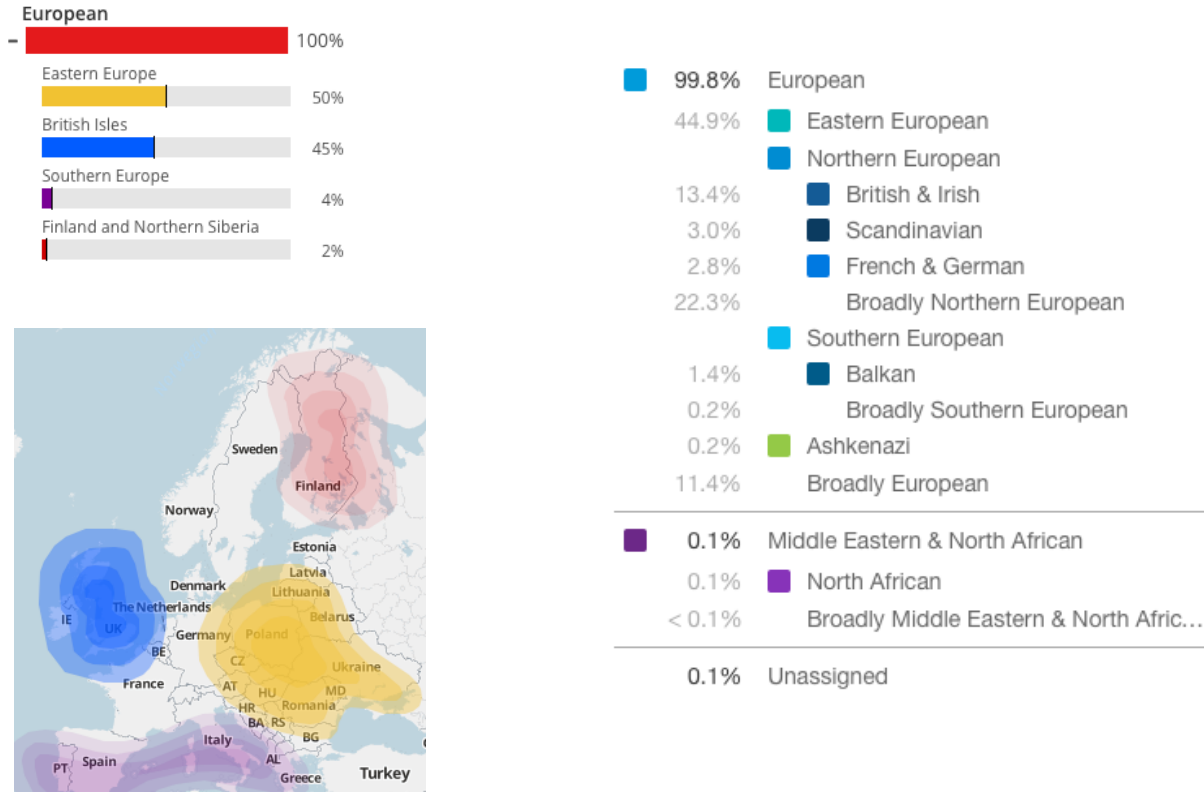
The report included with [Family Finder](#) is the most straightforward and conservative. [23andMe](#) offers a more speculative breakout, especially for European ancestry. [AncestryDNA](#) breaks out African ancestry more than the others. All three are capable of detecting Native American and Ashkenazi ancestry.

This is a very new science and the labs have been periodically refining their reports. When that happens again, you will simply see revised results at no additional cost.

These reports may be especially useful for those with an unknown father. Anything in your ethnicity report that does not match your mother's family background may provide a clue to your father's ethnicity. People in this situation should also join the [Unknown Father DNA group](#).

NOTE: The [Genographic Project](#) from National Geographic offers one more ethnicity report. But unlike the three autosomal tests covered here, it will NOT give you any information on people you match.

Below are the ethnicity reports in Family Finder (LEFT) and 23andMe (RIGHT) for a man whose father was Polish and mother was of mixed European ancestry.



THREE COMMON QUESTIONS

1. How Do I Get Tested?

The process of testing your DNA with all the major genetic genealogy labs is easy and painless. You order from the company's web site and they ship a home test kit to your address. Depending on the lab, you may be asked to lightly brush inside your cheeks or fill a tube with saliva. No blood is required.

2. Who Should I Test?

In most cases you will want to test yourself. But if one or both of your biological parents are living, you should test them on at least one of the autosomal tests before it's too late. Testing your parents has two important advantages.

First, they are one step closer to your family's relatives in the databases. So they will have some DNA matches that you won't see. Secondly, matches to your mother are likely to be through your mother's side of your family and matches to your father are likely to be through your father's side. If you only test yourself, it's not as easy to determine where your matches connect to your tree.



NOTE: If your family is part of an endogamous population, e.g. Ashkenazi Jews, where people tend to marry within a close-knit society, some of your matches will be related to your mother AND your father. This also means that the projected closeness of the match may be overstated, i.e. a projected 3rd cousin may actually be a 4th or 5th cousin.

3. What About Health Testing?

Until recently, the [23andMe](#) test included both ancestry and health results. In November 2013 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration ordered the company to stop providing health information to new customers until the company obtained FDA approval.

IMPORTANT: The suspension of health testing does NOT in any way impact the usefulness of 23andMe as an ancestry test.

Once approval is received, all 23andMe customers will have the option to view their health results.

NOTE: If you don't want to see health information, you can simply keep that side locked and not open it. Tested before the suspension, my family and I found the health information from 23andMe to be well presented and insightful.

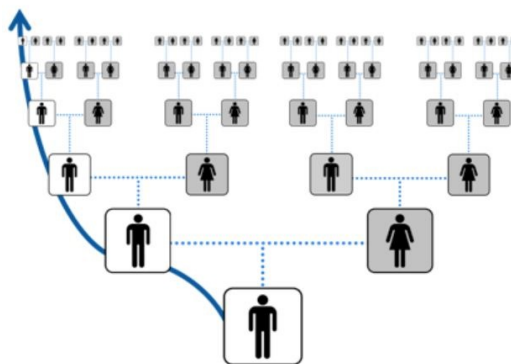
OTHER FAMILY TREE DNA TESTS WORTH CONSIDERING

23andMe and Ancestry.com each offer just one test—an autosomal test. [Family Tree DNA](#) (FTDNA) however, offers several tests in addition to the Family Finder autosomal test. I have done them all and can recommend them for the purposes described here:

Y-DNA Testing

The Y chromosome passes from father to son with only an occasional mutation. Y-DNA testing, which checks a number of “STR” markers, can identify or confirm men in your *paternal* line.

Since surnames usually don't change along paternal lines, a man's closest matches in a Y-DNA database will often share his surname. That characteristic of a Y-DNA test will provide male adoptees with the surname of their biological father about 40% of the time.



Who Should You Test?

Only men have the Y chromosome necessary for this test. Yet females can often participate in Y-DNA testing by sampling a living male in their paternal line. This could be a father, a brother, a father's brother, or a son of a father's brother.

This test will also determine your Y-DNA haplogroup, which identifies the ancient origins of your direct paternal line.

How Many Markers to Order?

Family Tree DNA will test 12, 37, 67, or 111 markers. Matches at 12 markers have no genealogical significance. I have over 400 of them. You need at least 37 markers and preferably 67 markers. You can upgrade to more markers later without submitting a new sample.

Only a small fraction of men have tested 111 markers, so that option is more than most people need. If you get too many close matches at 67 markers, then upgrading you and your matches to 111 would help determine the closest relationships.

Why is FTDNA Your Best Choice?

While there are several companies that do Y-DNA testing, [Family Tree DNA](#) has the largest Y-DNA database by far and hosts more than 6,000 DNA Projects for specific surnames, geographic areas, haplogroups and subclades. It is clearly your best option for Y-DNA testing.

Y-DNA SNP Testing

The traditional Y-DNA testing mentioned above looks at markers called STRs. Using a tree analogy to represent the paternal lineage of all human males, STRs help you identify your particular leaf.

SNPs, on the other hand, define branches on the tree of all human males. The larger branches split thousands of years ago and have continued to split into smaller branches. We describe all this branching with haplogroups and subclades. While SNPs have been always tied to our ancient ancestry, they have not been relevant to genealogy.

That is changing. New tests such as Family Tree DNA's "Big Y" test, are now uncovering thousands of previously unknown SNPs. Many of these define more recent branches and some may even be able to distinguish among different families with the same surname.

Cutting Edge Research

SNP testing is NOT for beginners. It's on the cutting edge of genetic genealogy. The Big Y test costs several hundred dollars and interpreting your results will be difficult until FTDNA and the various haplogroup project managers finish analyzing massive amounts of new data.

But if you've already learned as much as you can from STR testing and want to participate in a new science adventure, log into your account at [Family Tree DNA](#) and order the Big Y test.

Family Tree DNA also lets you test yourself for many individual SNPs at just \$39 each. But until the dust settles on all this new data, you probably won't know which SNPs are the most important for you to check. A small part of my Big Y report is shown below:

BIG Y - Results

Known SNPs Novel Variants Matching

Match Name	Shared Novel Variants	Known SNP Difference	Non-Matching Known SNPs
<input type="text" value="Name Search"/>	<input type="text" value="Show All"/>	<input type="text" value="Show All"/>	<input type="text" value="SNP Name Search"/>
Mr [Name]	73	1	Y783.2
Mr [Name]	58	0	
Ch [Name]	58	1	DF21
Ri [Name]	58	3	CTS3087 CTS5396 CTS750
He [Name]	58	1	CTS9623
Ch [Name]	58	4	CTS11267 CTS3974 CTS4466 CTS5714
Jo [Name]	58	1	CTS5396
Mr [Name]	58	2	CTS5396 L193
Pa [Name]	58	2	L159.1 Z255
Mr [Name]	58	4	CTS2187 CTS9333 DF21 ZS218
Mr [Name]	58	1	CTS8264
Da [Name]	57	1	CTS5396
Mr [Name]	57	0	
Da [Name]	57	4	CTS5939 CTS9108 DF49 L277
Fr [Name]	57	1	CTS5396
Mr [Name]	57	1	DF21
Rc [Name]	57	4	F4346 F454 PF810 PR3569
Mr [Name]	57	4	F4346 PF5721 PF6511 Y783.2
Mr [Name]	56	1	CTS5396

Names Covered for Privacy

Mitochondrial DNA Testing

The test that connects people in the **maternal** line is mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) testing. Since a mother passes on her mtDNA to ALL her children, both males and females can take this test.

You may discover a lot of matches in a database of mtDNA test results. But mitochondrial DNA mutates more slowly than Y-DNA, which means matches may not be as meaningful.

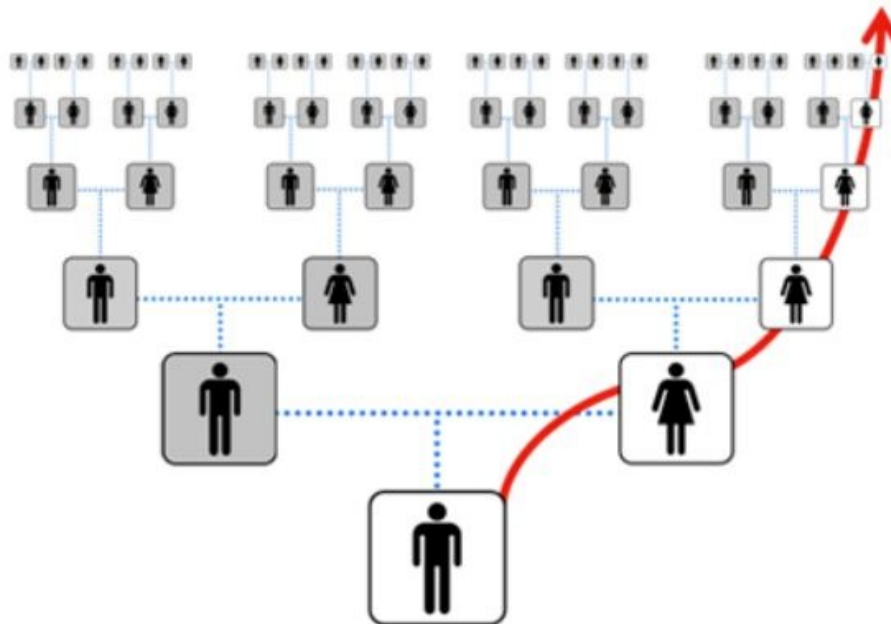
Plus, a female's surname typically changes every generation. As a result of these factors, the common ancestors responsible for mtDNA matches may be more difficult to identify than in the case of YDNA testing.

The Ultimate mtDNA Test

While the basic mtDNA test will tell you where in the world your direct maternal line lived tens of thousands of years ago, you need to do the **mtFullSequence** test to have any genealogical significance. This is the only mtDNA test that covers 100% of your mitochondrial DNA.



Only [Family Tree DNA](#) offers that test.



YOUR OVERALL TESTING STRATEGY

Invest most of your time and money into the three autosomal tests: [Family Finder](#), [23andMe](#), and [AncestryDNA](#).

If you are interested in a paternal line and have a suitable male to test, order the 37-marker or 67-marker Y-DNA test at [Family Tree DNA](#).

Only do mtDNA testing if you have excess funds or if your goal is to prove or disprove a certain maternal line connection.

Stick with the Top Companies

You can accomplish all your genetic genealogy goals by testing with the companies mentioned in this Guide.

No other companies offer a comparable autosomal test...and those that offer Y-DNA or mitochondrial DNA testing have far smaller databases and less robust comparison tools.



There are a few new tests offered by other companies that appear to have value for advanced users. Since I have not yet tried them myself, however, I am not going to cover them here.

Don't Waste Your Money

Many companies are still offering old-technology tests that don't live up to their promises. One example is the so-called "sibling" or "kinship" test that can only **estimate** the probability of certain close relationships based on a handful of markers.

Do one of the three new autosomal tests instead and you will actually **measure** the amount of DNA two people have in common.

I also suggest you avoid any DNA test that claims to place you in a particular tribe, either Native American or African. These tests are based on such small samples that the results are more wishful thinking than science.

Tests that provide dieting or dating advice based on your DNA are opportunistic scams. Don't be a sucker.

For an overview of the test types recommended by me and many other genetic genealogists see the table on the next page.

Recommended Genetic Genealogy DNA Tests

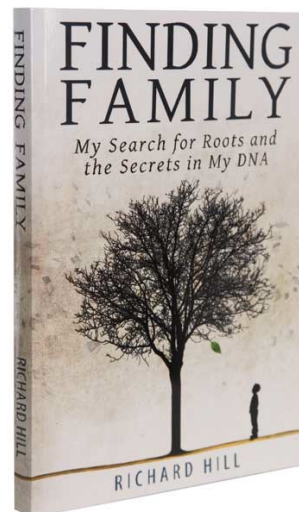
TEST TYPE	Autosomal DNA Test	Y Chromosome (Y-DNA) Test	Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) Test
WHAT IS CHECKED	700,000 or more genetic markers inherited from both parents	A man's Y Chromosome inherited from father	Mitochondrial DNA inherited from mother
PRINCIPAL USES	<p>Find relatives that share a common ancestor in any branch of your family tree within five generations or sometimes more</p> <p>Confirm close relationships out to second cousin and often beyond</p> <p>Measure percentages of ethnic ancestry from different regions of the world</p>	<p>Find male relatives that share a common ancestor in your paternal line</p> <p>Confirm that a given man is in your paternal line</p> <p>Determine paternal line haplogroup for ancient ancestry</p>	<p>Find relatives that share a common ancestor in your maternal line</p> <p>Confirm that a given person is in your maternal line</p> <p>Determine maternal line haplogroup for ancient ancestry</p>
STRENGTHS	<p>Huge databases growing fast with more than a million tests completed already.</p> <p>More conclusive than old technology "sibling" or "kinship" tests for confirming close relationships</p>	<p>Your close matches definitely share a common paternal line ancestor with you</p> <p>Matches can often reveal birth father's surname</p>	<p>Your close matches definitely share a common maternal line ancestor with you</p>
LIMITATIONS	<p>Some relatives at third cousin level and beyond may not share enough DNA to show up as matches</p> <p>Those born outside the U.S. and children of recent immigrants may find few matches</p> <p>If ancestors married cousins or were part of close-knit ethnic groups, your matches may appear to be more closely related than they really are</p>	<p>Only males can be tested.</p> <p>Only checks the paternal line</p> <p>Common ancestors may have lived hundreds of years ago</p> <p>The time to your most recent common ancestor can only be estimated</p>	<p>Only checks the maternal line</p> <p>Surname changes increase the difficulty of finding common ancestors</p> <p>Common ancestors may have lived thousands of years ago</p> <p>The time to your most recent common ancestor can only be estimated</p>
RECOMMENDED TESTS	23andMe, Family Finder at Family Tree DNA, AncestryDNA at Ancestry.com	Y-DNA 37 OR Y-DNA 67 at Family Tree DNA	mtFullSequence at Family Tree DNA

THE “FINDING FAMILY” BOOK

The full-length book about my search is drawing rave reviews and winning awards. *Finding Family: My Search for Roots and the Secrets in My DNA* was honored as a Finalist in the Next Generation Indie Book Awards and the eBook version won a gold medal in the Global Ebook Awards.

The venerable Kirkus Reviews calls the book “*An engaging, page-turning memoir that thoughtfully puts together the pieces of a family puzzle.*”

The book is available in print and eBook formats from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and other online sellers. More information can be found at FindingFamilyBook.com



What the Experts Say About “*Finding Family*”

“*Finding Family*” tells a gripping, inspirational story, but it also does more: It provides a genuinely useful self-help guide for adopted people, genealogists and anyone else who wants to explore their personal history.

—**Adam Pertman, Executive Director, Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute and author of *Adoption Nation*.**

A fascinating new page-turner. [I was] completely unable to put it down... I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in genealogy, family secrets, genetic genealogy, or mystery in general. The book is a complete and entertaining saga from A to Z.

—**Blaine Bettinger, Blogger, *The Genetic Genealogist***

“*Finding Family*” is an extraordinarily well-written account of one man’s journey to find the truth...a fascinating look at the challenges many adoptees face in finding the truth of their heritage...It’s definitely worth reading.

—**Kim Phagan-Hansel, *Adoption Today***

This book is what we used to refer to as a barn-burner! Gets ahold of you and just won’t let you go!...a wonderfully executed masterpiece. Whether you are interested in genetic genealogy, adoption searches or just like a good heart-warming mystery, you’ll love this book!

—**Roberta Estes, Blogger, *DNAeXplained***

Simply put, I loved this book. I felt myself identifying with Richard at every turn of his journey...Richard does a wonderful job of describing the process of DNA in layman’s terms. After reading this book, I feel more comfortable sending my DNA for analysis and some hope in finding answers one day.

—**Lynn Grubb, Blogger, *Lost Daughters***

Combining conventional genealogy, DNA analysis, and good old-fashioned gumshoe detective work, Richard has weaved his personal story into a thrilling saga that should serve as a roadmap for anyone seeking the “who” and “why” of an adoptee’s birth.

—**Bennett Greenspan, President, *Family Tree DNA***

I found myself captivated with the story of this man. I did not get up again until I had finished it cover to cover. It's that kind of book. I happily recommend it to anyone preparing for a search or just wanting to read a good story. The search tips that are found make it worth its weight in gold.

—**Claudia Corrigan Darcy, Blogger, Musings of The Lame**

Richard's story reads like a good mystery novel. He is methodical, creative, determined and unexpectedly funny. I couldn't put the book down.

—**CeCe Moore, Blogger, Your Genetic Genealogist**

[The Finding Family book} should be required reading for anyone about to embark on an adoptee quest in finding their birth family...some of the most fascinating non-fiction you will ever read.

—**Katherine Hope Borges, Director, International Society of Genetic Genealogy**

You don't have to be an adoptee to enjoy reading this fascinating story...This is a very personal book. It's sad, funny, and heart warming. It is also an excellent introduction into understanding the basics of DNA research.

—**Bobbi Schirado, Michigana Magazine**

Hill's memoir is well-written, easy to read, a can't-put-down tale. It's more than that, though, as Hill reveals himself in the process of discovering his roots. It's a warm story of a man who finds family as well as roots.

—**Jane Edwards, Blogger, [Birth Mother,] First Mother Forum**

This book is a must-read for any adoptee, and for anyone working on their genealogy. The sheer joy of seeing someone's hard work pay off so successfully brings a big smile.

—**Emily Aulicino, Blogger, DNA - Genealem's Genetic Genealogy**

Richard Hill spent his career working in the sciences and in marketing, but hearing about his decades-long search for family you get the sense he would have made a great detective.

—**Scott Hadly, Content Editor, 23andMe, Inc.**

"There are many fiction authors who could learn a thing or two from Hill's writing."

—**Leland Meitzler, GenealogyBlog**

"Regardless of whether you are adopted or not, this is a very personal journey of one man's discovery of his biological roots which has a happy ending! It was a long journey, over several decades, and yet Mr. Hill doesn't weigh the story down with too much nitty-gritty. There is just enough detail about his research methodology that it both inspires and informs us."

—**Diane L. Richard, Family Chronicle Magazine**

PLEASE ADD YOUR OWN REVIEW

If you have read *Finding Family*, please write your own online review. You can do that easily from these pages on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com).

CONCLUSION

Thank you for reading my *Guide to DNA Testing*. I update the Guide periodically and you can see the Version number near the bottom of the cover page.

My Mission

After identifying and confirming my birth father through a variety of DNA tests, I made it my mission to help adoptees and others solve their personal mysteries through genetic genealogy. I do this through writing, speaking, social media, and answering questions for free from hundreds of readers each year.

If you have a question about DNA testing or would like me to speak to your genealogy group, library or other gathering, please contact me by [email](#) or through the [Feedback Form](#) on my web site. I live in Michigan but sometimes accept more distant engagements.

NOTE: My focus is on DNA for ancestry purposes. I am not qualified to answer legal, medical, or forensic questions.

I encourage genealogists to get involved in genetic genealogy. As the primary databases get bigger, all of us benefit by getting more and closer matches. Furthermore, since adoptees have no family trees to start with, we depend on the family trees of our genetic matches to provide the critical breakthroughs.

If you are a genealogist and are contacted by an adoptee, I implore you to do all you can to help that person. Someone in their first family may also be searching for that lost child and it is immensely satisfying to help them reunite.

Disclosure

I have personally used every test discussed in this Guide, purchasing them with my own funds. I have never received any free tests. Some DNA testing companies have created affiliate programs for writers and bloggers. These programs pay a small commission for referrals without adding to the selling price. If the test is one that I use and recommend anyway, I participate in the program.

More Information

For more information on DNA testing visit my web site at DNA-Testing-Adviser.com. You can also follow the posts on my DNA Testing Adviser [Facebook Page](#).

