

DNA: making your test work for you

The one-page version · keep this beside you

1 Know your vehicles

Test your oldest relatives first.



Spaghetti Junction

Your main autosomal DNA test.
All four grandparents' roads meet in you.



The bus

Y-DNA.
Father to son, straight up the surname line. Only men carry it.



The train

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA).
Mother to child.
Sons ride it too; only daughters pass it on.



The paint

Your ethnicity estimate.
Where the car was built, not which road it took.

2 Start here: 2 switches



TEST LINKED TO TREE.
Your test must be linked to your own place in your tree.



DON'T HIDE YOUR MAP.
Leave "Also prevent your tree from being found in searches" **UNTICKED.**

3 Five steps to make Ancestry work for you

1 Put your pin on the map.

Link your test to your tree.

2 Make it wide.

Add brothers, sisters and their families: the side streets.

3 Put your matches on the roads.

Add them to your tree, back to the ancestor you share.

4 Four roads, four colours.

Sort your matches into four groups, one per grandparent.

5 Then it feeds itself.

ThruLines and new matches find the roads you've drawn.

Ancestry will work hard for you, but only on the roads you've drawn.

A ThruLine is a clue. Never a fact.

4 Wait before you knock



Every house on your map has real people in it. Some have secrets; some don't know them yet. Don't contact anyone about their DNA while you're still learning. When you do, put yourself in their shoes, and if you can, let someone who knows the family make the first contact.

5 Don't jump to Dunedin



Talk to people. Go and stand there.

Stop at every petrol station: a record, a match, a cousin, a conversation. Each one gets you one step further.

6 When you want the detail



DNA Foundations: free to NZSG members. Later courses may have a fee, with a discount for NZSG members.

Scan to start

