

## AncestryDNA – Results Overview

So, at last your results have arrived! Often when people ask for advice online as to what they should do, now they have their results, there's a chorus of replies saying "upload your results to GEDMatch/FTDNA/MyHeritage etc now!". Yes, these are useful sites and it's definitely worth using them, but it is just as important to get to grips with the results you have on Ancestry. It is very easy to get swamped with information by trying to do too many things at once, so move at a pace that *you* feel comfortable with!



There are several different elements to your results, so let's start at the top of the screen and work down:

- 1 Check that you have linked your DNA results to the tree that you have created – if it does not say "**Linked to <your name>**" but has "**LINK TO TREE**" then you have not completed this step and will need to do so to get the best out of your results. Follow these links for information sheets on [creating a tree](#) and [attaching your DNA](#).



## 2 **DNA STORY / DNA MATCHES / DNA CIRCLES**

More information on each section is given below, but in summary:

Many people take a DNA test purely because they "want to know where they come from", so the **DNA Story** section is all they ever look at. This gives a breakdown of ethnicity estimates and any migration groups that can be identified.

**DNA Matches** are people who have also tested at Ancestry and have inherited DNA from an ancestor that the pair of you have in common. The two of you may be closely related (eg, your sister or Uncle) or more distant cousins. The number of 4<sup>th</sup> cousins or closer is displayed (to be accurate, it means 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> cousins and closer). If you have more than 1,000 matches in this category you will not get a precise number, only 1,000+. Click the **VIEW ALL DNA MATCHES** button to view the full list, including distant relatives (5<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> cousins).

**DNA Circles** are generated by Ancestry when certain conditions (including having a current subscription) are met – there is no setting to make them visible/hidden. If your results have only just arrived, you are unlikely to have any circles as it will take Ancestry's system some time to work through all the necessary information and generate any relevant circles.

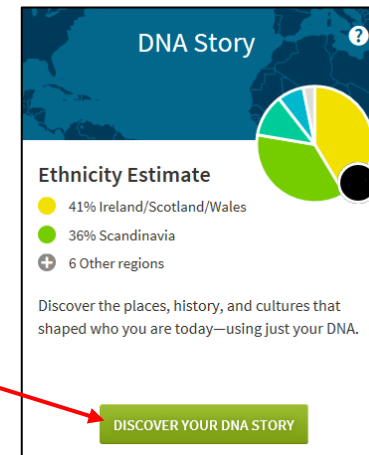


### 3 **DNA Story**

Above all else, remember that the Ethnicity reports are an estimate and reflect where your ancestors came from hundreds/thousands of years ago – which is likely to be beyond the point in history where anyone has an accurate, documented family tree.

It is likely to be correct in broad terms, eg, you are mostly Asian or you are part African and part European, but the science behind ethnicity estimates is still a work in progress – and your reports will change if Ancestry applies any updates.

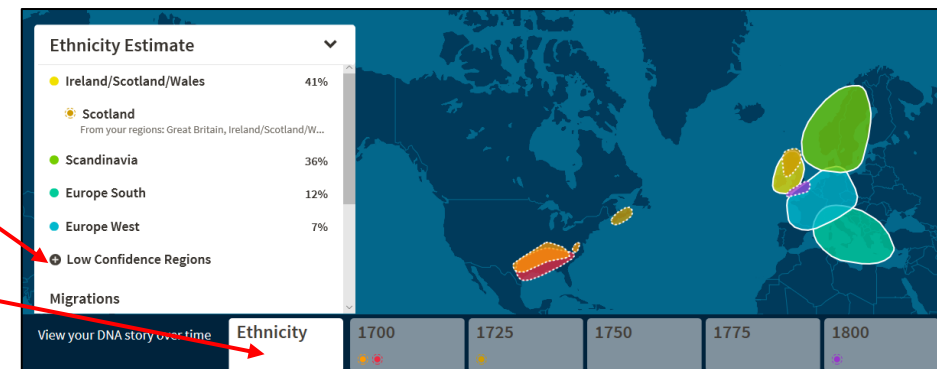
The information on this page is only an overview. To find out more, including revealing any “other regions” that are listed, click the **DISCOVER YOUR DNA STORY** button to move to a more detailed report.



#### **Ethnicity Estimate**

The full details of your Ethnicity report are shown on the DNA Story page. The easiest way to find out more about anything that interests you is to keep clicking! You can see that my initial breakdown now includes a couple of European regions, but clicking the **+ Low Confidence Regions** heading will give the full breakdown.

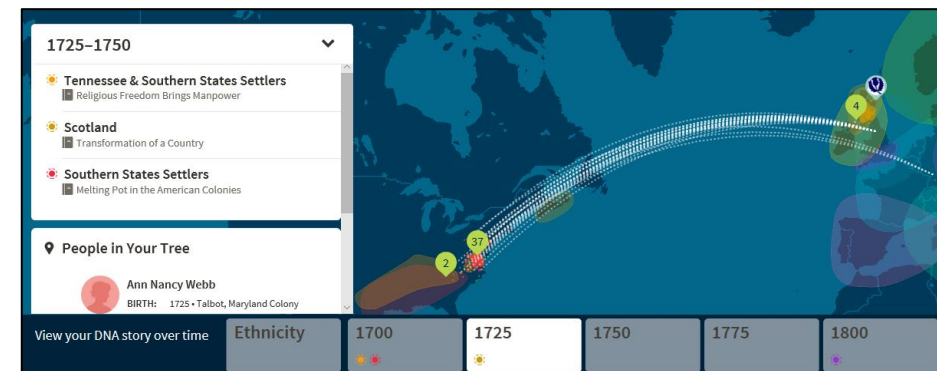
To return to the overview of your DNA story, click the **Ethnicity** option:



#### **Migrations (previously known as Genetic Communities)**

Migrations were added to Ancestry’s ethnicity reports in Spring 2017 – they indicate how your ancestors may have moved around the globe from one region to another. For example, I have Scottish and Irish ancestors, so it was no surprise to find that many of them emigrated to America.

You may have several migration groups, or you may have none at all! Again, the best way to find out more is by clicking the various headings and the boxes on the timeline along the bottom of the screen. Here you can see that in the early/mid 1700s my ancestors moved from Europe to America – clicking on the numbered pins on the map will expand the detail to show exactly which people are reflected here.



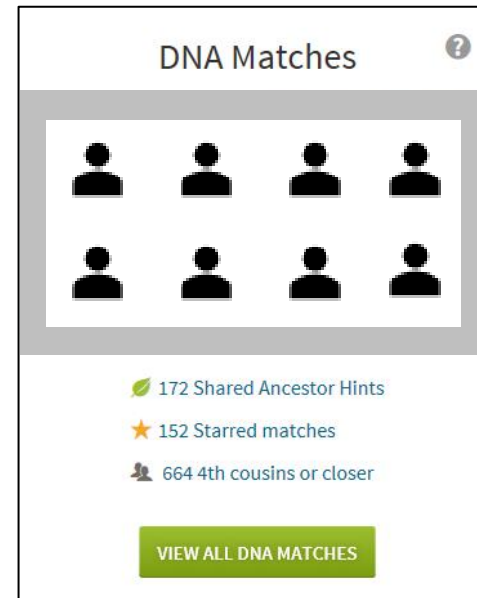
## 4 DNA Matches

This section is the area that you need to concentrate on to be able to put together your DNA family tree. The profile pictures shown will change regularly, they reflect some of the most recent matches to be added to your list.

**Shared Ancestor Hints** - When your results first arrive you may find that you have no Shared Ancestor Hints (sometimes abbreviated to SAHs). For these to generate you need as large a tree as possible, linked to your DNA - and a little patience whilst you wait for Ancestry to compare your DNA and tree to others on the system to see if it can identify a common ancestor in both your tree and your matches' trees.

**Starred matches** - You can add/remove stars to the profile of any of your DNA matches to indicate whatever is useful to you, maternal/paternal, known/unknown.

**4<sup>th</sup> cousins or closer** - this heading reflects the number of DNA matches you have who are in the 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> cousin category or closer (so anything from a parent/child match with you through to someone who shares a set of 5xGreat Grandparents with you). A list, broken down into categories, is available when you click the **VIEW ALL DNA MATCHES** button.

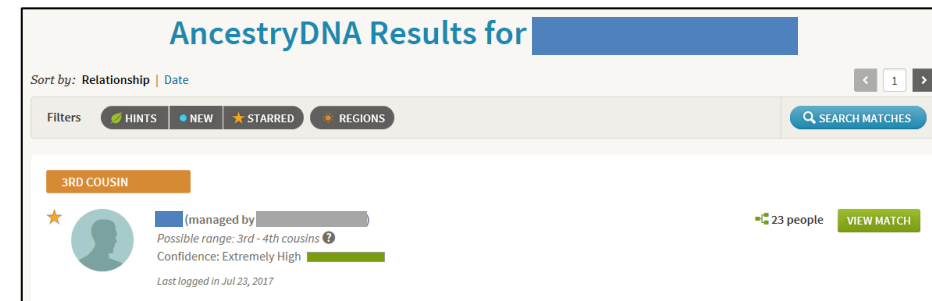


Much more information about DNA Matches will follow in a further information sheet.

Be aware that Ancestry describes most relationships in terms of "cousin". If you have a Parent or Child who has tested, they will be clearly marked with their relationship. Beyond that, many different relationships are equal in terms of the amount of DNA they share, so there is no way for Ancestry to be specific. More information on this can be found here: [Understanding Relationships - Part Two](#)

To get the best prediction of the relationship you need to look at the shared centiMorgans - more on that here: [How do I find the shared centiMorgans?](#)

The number of DNA cousins people have can vary enormously. If your ancestors were from part of the world where DNA testing is not widely available, you may have very few matches. If your ancestors lived exclusively in the UK/Europe you may have less than two hundred 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> cousins, if your family have been in some parts of America for many generations you may have many thousands!



## 5 **DNA Circles**

DNA Circles appear when there are many people who have tested who all have a connection to a specific ancestor. In a way, they may not be that useful, as most of these people would be on your match list and have a public tree. However, it does pull all the information together in one convenient place. The circle could include people who are not a DNA match to you but still connect to the ancestor, providing information on a section of your tree you have not yet explored.

Various criteria need to be met for Ancestry to generate a circle, including that you have a public tree (so, if you are trying to solve a family mystery and find it necessary to use a private/unsearchable tree you are not going to see any DNA circles). The way in which Ancestry generates DNA Circles is described in their guide [here](#).

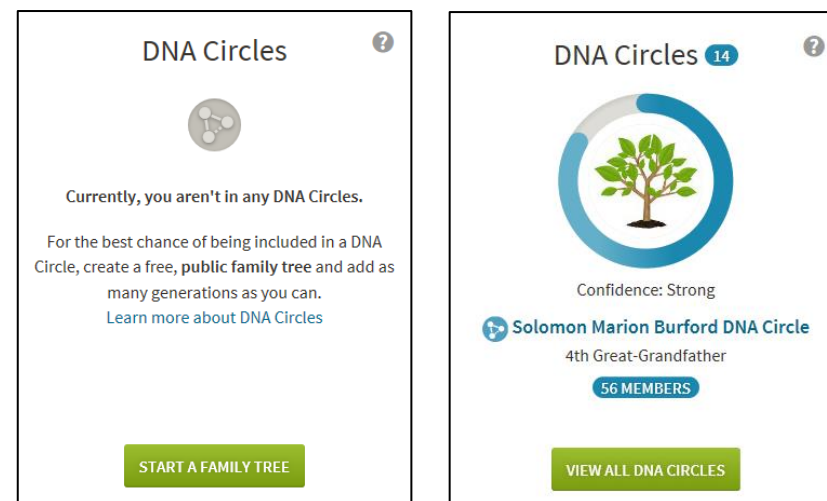
If you do have circles at any point it is worth taking a screenshot – they may disappear due to factors beyond your control, such as people making their trees private, changing their tree or Ancestry updates.

## 6 **New Ancestor Discoveries**

These people may be direct line ancestors, or they may have a more obscure connection to you – you can read Ancestry's guide [here](#). Their inclusion is based on Ancestry's comparison of your DNA to other matches and their trees, so it is not dependent upon you having a tree. When my results first arrived, I had a New Ancestor Discovery, who I eventually discovered was my 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin 6 times removed - not an obvious or easy connection to find! However, my Grandfather turned out to have the same surname.

You may or may not have any New Ancestor Discoveries. If you do, take a screenshot now, as these suggestions tend to appear and disappear as Ancestry applies updates, or you expand your tree to include these ancestors.

To find out more about these individuals, click on them in turn to learn about their life and see which of your DNA matches connect to them.



For further help discovering your DNA family, [visit DNADiscoveries.co.uk](http://visit DNADiscoveries.co.uk)



or



[Find us on Facebook](#)