

Family Tree DNA

Family Tree DNA is a division of Gene by Gene, a commercial genetic testing company based in Houston, Texas. Family Tree DNA offers analysis of autosomal DNA, Y-DNA, and mitochondrial DNA to individuals for genealogical purpose. It is the most popular company worldwide for Y-DNA and mitochondrial DNA, and the third most popular for autosomal DNA.

DNA Test Products

Autosomal DNA Testing

In May 2010, Family Tree DNA launched an autosomal microarray chip based DNA test. They called the new product Family Finder. The initial product used an Affymetrix microarray chip, but Family Tree DNA changed to the Illumina OmniExpress chip and retested all customers who had results from the Affymetrix chip for forward compatibility. Family Finder allows customers to match relatives as distant as about fifth cousins. Family Finder also includes a component called myOrigins. The results of this test provide percentages of a DNA associated with general regions or specific ethnic groups (e.g. Western Europe, Asia, Jewish, Native American, etc.). Notably, unlike other testing companies, they chose to strip out markers for mendelian medical issues, mtDNA results, and Y-DNA SNP results.

Y DNA Testing

The company markets a range of Y-DNA tests. The Y-chromosome is inherited from father to son, so testers can discover relatives with the same patrilineage. In many cultures these relatives will often share the same surname, since surnames are also inherited father to son. These tests cover 37 through 111 STR markers depending on the test, and vary in price according to the number of markers tested. Once an individual has tested at least 12 STR markers, they may take the "Big Y" test. Big Y tests approximately 20,000 SNPs.

mtDNA Testing

Family Tree DNA also sells mtDNA tests, offering the choice of either a limited hypervariable region test, or a full sequence test of the entire mitochondrial DNA chromosome.

These tests are available in a number of product packages as shown in the following figure.

	Best for	Specifications	What you get	Price
FAMILY FINDER	Genealogy History Ancestry	Autosomal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Finder Matches Ethnic Percentages 	\$79 Learn More
Father's Line Learn More				
Y₃₇	Genealogy History Ancestry	37 markers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect to matches Free access to group projects & experts on your lineage Automated updates to your results Free webinars with a professional genetic genealogist Personalized customer support Uncover up to 340,000 years 	\$169 Males only
Y₆₇	Genealogy History Ancestry	67 markers		\$268 Males only
Y₁₁₁	Genealogy History Ancestry	111 markers		\$359 Males only
Mother's Line Learn More				
mtDNA⁺	History	HVR1+HVR2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect to matches Free access to group projects & experts on your lineage Automated updates to your results Free webinars with a professional genetic genealogist Personalized customer support Discover up to 180,000 years 	\$79
mt Full Sequence	Genealogy History	Full Sequence		\$199

Family Tree DNA Test Products

If you are going to take a Y-DNA test, you should not order less than a Y-37 kit. Based on what you find in the results, you can upgrade to a kit with more markers later (without having to submit a new DNA sample).

Visit FamilyTreeDNA: <https://www.familytreedna.com/>

To get started, visit the FTDNA Learning Center: <https://www.familytreedna.com/learn/>

The Beginner's DNA Guide: <https://www.familytreedna.com/learn/dna-basics/>

Go to FTDNA on FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/FamilyTreeDNA>