

Ancestry's DNA Story (Ethnicity Estimate)

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Access >> DNA Tab – DNA Story OR DNA Tab – DNA Results Summary – DNA Story

Main DNA Story Page

1. Help = Question mark = upper left
 - a. 20 different help topics related to the DNA Story
2. Map (left)
 - a. World map showing your ancestral regions
 - b. Color coded to list of ancestral regions on right in Ethnicity Estimate
3. Ethnicity Estimate (right)
 - a. Use slider on the right to navigate up and down this portion of the page
 - b. Ethnicity Estimate
 - i. List of major regions and percentages of that region that you may have in your ethnicity
 1. Think of the places as regions or population groups, rather than countries with set boundaries
 2. Remember that this is an estimate – preliminary and subject to change
 3. Your results were calculated by comparing your DNA to “reference panels” of person whose ancestors had deep roots in that region. You are linked to the regions that your DNA was “most like.”
 4. Ancestry cannot tell you when that ethnicity entered your family line, but says it could be more than several hundred years ago, and possibly further back in time than that.
 - a. This means you may not be able to trace exactly when it entered your line, due to lack of early genealogical records from before about 1500-1600.
 - ii. Help – click on “How do we calculate this”
 - iii. Click on each ethnicity to learn more about that specific group, to highlight it on the map, and to view the range of your percentages. Many help screens linked here
 1. Your ethnicity percent is actually a range of possible percentages. The number you were given is the most likely of all the options, but you could actually be a different percentage of that ethnicity, including 0% in some cases.
 - c. Date of release of your ethnicity estimate update
 - i. Help – click on “View previous estimate and FAQs”
 - d. Differences to known tree/ethnicity of known ancestors:
 - i. Slight differences to your known ethnicity within the same continent and general region of that continent are not a cause for concern. Small percentages of DNA are often not a cause for concern either, as the range from those can be 0%.

- ii. Differences with results in a different continent could indicate a DNA surprise like an unknown adoption or a different ancestor than believed somewhere in your tree.
 - 1. Example: 100% European background gets result of African, Asian, American or Australian indigenous DNA
 - 2. Example: Someone who was thought to be 100% Jewish, with a non-Jewish result or vice versa
 - iii. Different DNA community in the old country than you expected could indicate a DNA surprise. Communities based in the old country are highly accurate.
 - 1. Example: if you are Eastern European Polish on your tree and through genealogical research, but you got a result of Eastern European Serbian on your DNA communities, this indicates that you almost definitely had an ancestor that lived in Serbia within the last 300 years, and may indicate a DNA surprise for you. Serbia and Poland are not located nearby one another, nor are they “closely related” populations
- 4. Ethnicity Inheritance (Right, scroll down slider below Ethnicity Estimate)
 - a. Breakdown of ethnicity inheritance from each parent
 - i. New feature (within last year)
 - ii. Will be listed as Parent 1 and Parent 2 UNLESS you “edit” it to indicate which parent is which
 - iii. Parents need not have taken a DNA test, because Ancestry can distinguish between Parent 1 and Parent 2 based on your chromosomes and based on your DNA Matches
 - iv. Indicates percentages of each ethnicity that you inherited from each parent (1 or 2)
 - b. View Breakdown (new screen opens)
 - i. Overview
 - ii. Detailed comparison
 - 1. Edit parents under this section = where you can assign Parent 1 or Parent 2 to Paternal or Maternal
 - 2. Help topics
 - a. Inheritance is random – click on “tell me more”
 - b. How do we know this? – click on “Sideview”
 - iii. Chromosome Painter (Beta)
 - 1. “Beta” means that it is not fully functional yet, bugs are still being found and worked on, changes may be made in final product
 - 2. Shows sections of your chromosomes that were inherited from Parent 1 and Parent 2 and which ethnicity each section was
 - 3. Several help topics at bottom of page under FAQ
- 5. DNA Communities (slider on right of main DNA Story page)
 - a. Community is a group of people who share DNA because their relatives lived in the same place and time. Date from 50-300 years ago

- b. Your communities were determined by analyzing your DNA matches and their trees – and some fancy math (data analysis) to make the connections
- c. Communities can be either in the new world (such as US) or in the old country (prior to emigration)
 - i. Communities in the US/new world indicate that you probably had an ancestor or his/her descendants settle in that area of the country
 - ii. Communities in Europe (or the old country) indicate that you probably had a recent ancestor or ancestors that lived in that region of Europe/old country
 - iii. Highly accurate
- d. Help – click on “How this works”
- e. Click on each Community to learn more