

# VGA's 7th Birthday Party

## A mtDNA and YDNA check-up

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Autosomal DNA (AncestryDNA, 23andMe, MyHeritage, LivingDNA, Family Finder test at FamilyTreeDNA)

Reminders about autosomal DNA (atDNA, DNA):

- Anyone can do a test
- Recombines (is mixed between parents) every generation
- Best for researching most recent 6 generations (3x great grandparents and closer)

YDNA overview

- Traces the father's father's father's line back in time.
- Only people with a Y-chromosome can test (biological males).
- Does not recombine.
- Mutates every few generations, which can provide relationship information.
- Provides information about distant ancestry through YDNA haplogroups.
- Confirms father-son relationships
- Can solve a mystery involving a male line.

What YDNA test should I order at FamilyTreeDNA?

- Y37: Definitely (typically \$99 on sale)
- Y111: Consider if you have a common surname
- BigY 700 (can be \$399 on sale)
  - To know as much as possible
  - Have close matches
  - Contribute to science
- Can upgrade with the original sample if it is viable

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) overview

- Traces the mother's mother's mother's line back in time.
- Anyone can test.
- Whole genome test

- Does not recombine.
- Mutations create patterns providing information about relationships. Not as specific as YDNA.
- Provides information on distant ancestry through mtDNA haplogroups.
- Can answer certain research questions.

FamilyTreeDNA offers a full sequence mitochondrial DNA test for genealogy purposes. Tests can be as low as \$129 on sale.

### Ways to track YDNA and mtDNA for your family

- On paper on a pedigree chart or list
- In your genealogy software
- At DNA Painter in the Ancestral Trees
- At Ancestry using an image or tag.

### Finding YDNA and mtDNA target testers: track descendants of ancestors!

- In your genealogy software
- On Ancestry. ThruLines® is one option.
- At MyHeritage, try the Theories of Family Relativity™
- FamilySearch Family Tree>View Tree>Descendancy
- WikiTree Descendants Tab

### Your YDNA and mtDNA check-up

1. Use the results of your check-up to create a mtDNA and YDNA testing plan.
2. Buy YDNA and mtDNA tests when they are on sale.
3. Reach out to potential testers.
4. Track your efforts by recording YDNA and mtDNA haplogroups for your ancestors.

*Remember you can research any family line with YDNA and mtDNA when you have the right cousin take a DNA test!*

Resource:

Roberta Estes at [DNAeXplained](https://dnaexplained.com/). Check out her books on using FamilyTreeDNA and Native American DNA.