

How do you know which parent connects me to my journeys?

We learn this from your DNA matches—not from your parents' tests (if they've taken tests).

Using our [SideView™ technology](#), we group your DNA matches based on which of your parents they're related to. This shows us whether you have significantly more matches related to one parent than the other in a journey. If you do, it means you're likely connected to that journey through that parent. In cases where you have a significant number of matches in a journey connected to each of your parents, we show that you inherited the journey from both parents. This means you likely have ancestors from that journey on both sides of your family. Learn more about [the science behind journeys by parent](#).

Do you use my parents' DNA for this?

No. This information comes from your DNA results—not from testing your parents. If your parents take DNA tests, they'll receive their own journey inheritance, giving you a peek into what they inherited from your grandparents.

How can my parents have a journey I don't have?

You inherited 50% of your DNA from one parent and 50% from the other. And that means there's a half of each parent's DNA you didn't inherit.

Because you're connected to your matches through DNA, your parents may have some matches that you don't have (because of the DNA they have that you didn't inherit). The more distant the match relationship, the more likely it becomes that you won't have a match your parent has.

You're assigned to journeys based on your matches. And since you may not have all the matches your parents have, you also may not have all the journeys your parents have.

If your parents have taken an AncestryDNA® test and have a journey, then you're related to that journey through your ancestors. We just couldn't find enough evidence in your DNA to feel confident connecting you to that journey. Check out "Common journeys of your closest matches" for journeys your matches have that don't appear in your results.

Why did my journeys change?

For our early 2024 journeys by parent release, we updated our journey reference panels and algorithms. This made our results more precise overall. And that means you may have new journeys we couldn't connect you to before, but you may also lose journeys you had a weaker genetic connection to.

Why aren't all of my journeys connected to a parent?

In some cases, we can't tell which parent connects you to a journey.

In order to get a journey, you must have a certain number of close and distant matches in that journey. To figure out which parent connects you to a journey, we separate your matches by parent. Then we check whether significantly more of your matches in a journey are related to one of your parents or the other.

In some cases, you may not have enough matches connected to either parent alone (or we couldn't separate enough of your matches by parent) for us to confidently make the call.

Why don't you know who Parent 1 and Parent 2 are?

We can split your DNA into the halves you inherited from each parent, but we can't connect each half to a certain person. Even with the help of matches, your DNA doesn't tell us who each half came from.

How can I figure out who Parent 1 and Parent 2 are?

DNA matches are a good place to start. If you recognize a match we've assigned to a parent and know which parent that match is related to, you can label that parent. Once you've done so, both parents will automatically be labeled everywhere.

Regions by parent can help too. If you know that one parent has a region the other doesn't, that unique region can tell you who's who.

Parent 1 and Parent 2 are the same in your region inheritance, journey inheritance, traits inheritance, and matches inheritance. For example, if Parent 1 is your mother in matches, Parent 1 is also your mother everywhere else. [Learn more](#)

What are "common journeys of my closest matches"?

Once we group your DNA matches by the parent they're related to, we look at each group of matches separately to find insights about each side of your family. One of those insights is the journeys that are common on each side. For each group, we find the journeys your closest matches have the most often, and that's what you're seeing in this section. We only show journeys you don't have in this list.

Think of these journeys as clues. Just like your parents can have journeys you don't have (but you're still connected to them), the same can be true with your other close relatives. But unlike your parents, your other close relatives can also have journeys you aren't connected to (because they have some ancestors you don't have). For example, your first cousins share one set of grandparents with you, but they have a second set of grandparents you're not related to.