



The Albuquerque Genealogical Society
ABCs of DNA Series
Presented by Lark M. Robart
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What are ThruLines?

- Show how you may be related to your DNA matches
- Based on information from family trees
 - Ancestry does not change information in the trees
 - Inaccurate info in a tree may lead to inaccurate ThruLines
 - Example: Ancestry might list an adopted parent instead of a biological parent. So it depends on how trees are created.
 - ThruLines are hints. *You still have to do genealogy!*
- Only you and anyone you've united to review your DNA results can see your ThruLines.

What do ThruLines look like?

- From any page at Ancestry, click the DNA tab and select ThruLines.
- Ancestors from your linked tree will appear at the top of your ThruLines.
- Filters
 - All Ancestors
 - Ancestors with new DNA matches
 - Potential ancestors
 - Ancestors in your linked tree
 - Maternal ancestors
 - Paternal ancestors
- Ancestors in solid line boxes are in your tree
- Ancestors in dotted line boxes are designated as "Potential Ancestors"

How do I set up ThruLines?

- Take an AncestryDNA test
- Opt to see and be seen by your DNA matches >
<https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Choosing-not-to-be-Listed-as-an-AncestryDNA-Match>
- Link your family tree to your DNA test >
<https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Linking-an-AncestryDNA-Test-to-a-Tree>
 - Make sure you are the HOME person in that tree
- Make sure your tree is either public, or private but searchable >
<https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Family-Tree-Privacy>
- If possible, build your tree back at least 4 generations

For troubleshooting tips, see this Article at Ancestry.com >

https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/AncestryDNA-ThruLines?language=en_US

How Do I Use ThruLines?

- Select a known ancestor or “Potential Ancestor”
- Select RELATIONSHIP or LIST view
- Review DNA matches and relationships
- **Carefully** review and analyze trees and records of DNA matches
 - Remember that ThruLines are hints, just like a record hint > *you still need to do genealogy!*
 - Start with Ancestry Member Trees with the most, and best, records > *the more the better!*
 - Be wary of Ancestry Member Trees with no records.
 - Reach out to the DNA match for more information.
- Click on the amount of DNA you share with a match to review the likelihood of different relationships.

Additional Resources

[Ancestry.com: ThruLines Explained](#) > YouTube video

Connie Knox

1 May 2020

[Ancestry DNA ThruLines](#) > YouTube video

Diahan Southard

10 Apr 2020

[ThruLines: Ancestry's Best Feature](#) > YouTube video

Sacramento Public Library

25 Jan 2022

[Optimizing Your Tree at Ancestry for More Hints & DNA ThruLines](#) > blog post

Roberta Estes

[AncestryDNA ThruLines](#) > Facebook group (*private; just ask to JOIN*)