

# American Indian DNA

## Native American DNA

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**It is very strange, nobody else in the United States has to prove their ancestry except for us Native Americans...and we were here first!**

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How do I get tested to prove that I have American Indian blood?

This is quite a common question. There is a simple answer. You DO NOT have to go to a doctor's office or a clinical lab to have your blood drawn.

Today, there is a simple yet effective DNA test you can take at home by just swabbing the inside of your cheek with a special swab. The swab is then mailed to the DNA testing lab for analysis. This only takes a minute and is done in the privacy of your own home. You can find more information on [DNA testing labs](#) or order a [DNA testing kit](#) by clicking on the links.

Advances in modern DNA testing

have provided new tools to document Native American blood/ancestry. If you are interested in establishing your Native American rights or applying for tribal membership or just want to satisfy your curiosity, DNA testing is the only reliable method available for this purpose.

## Is it important to establish membership in a Tribe?

In the 1800s, the treaties with Native American tribes, obligate the U.S. government to provide such things as education, health care and other services & benefits to many of the tribes.

The important issue of Indian sovereignty also means tribes can set up casinos on reservations. Indian casinos now generate over \$18 BILLION DOLLARS annually, and that number continues grow.

As you know, the many tribes also have extensive oil reserves, mineral rights, fishing and agricultural rights which produce substantial income and opportunities. These rights are only available to **members** of the tribe.

There are 562 federally recognized Native American tribes. Many of these tribes have set membership requirements that say a person must have at least one of the following; an

Indian parent, or a grandparent, or a great-grandparent in order to receive membership. Tribes can also confer membership based on DNA testing and historical records.

In addition to the 562 recognized tribes, there are smaller Native American tribes that are seeking official recognition and benefits from the federal government.

## What can DNA testing do?

DNA science today is very exciting. We can now solve crimes based on the DNA results of a single hair. We can clone sheep and even the family pet.

One of the most interesting areas being investigated is the relationship between genetics, genealogy and ethnicity. This work, which is being done in Utah, is a joint venture between Brigham Young University and the Sorensen Company (parent company of [\*IdentiGene DNA\*](#)).

We now have a lot of information about the genetic traits of Native Americans and Native American tribes. It appears that there are certain "Native American" genetic markers. Scientists believe that if a person has these genetic markers in their DNA, they are more likely to have Native American blood.

There are two ways to determine if

you have Native American blood using DNA testing. First method is by measuring your mitochondrial DNA and the second method is by measuring your Y-chromosome DNA.

## What is Native American mitochondrial DNA?

The mitochondrial DNA test also known as the mtDNA test, are tests for the genetic markers are known as Haplogroups.

These markers provide the most accurate genetic information from the maternal line. Most people with Indian blood can be classified into one of five of these haploid groupings: They are the A, B, C, D, or X groups. These Haplogroups represent separate geographic Native American populations. For example:

- The A Haplogroup occurs most frequently in the Arctic/Subarctic areas of North America; it is almost nonexistent among the non-Athapaskan-speaking peoples in the Southwestern areas.
- The B Haplogroup occurs most frequently in the Southwestern part of North America.
- The C Haplogroup occurs most frequently in Eastern parts of North America.
- The D Haplogroup occurs most frequently among peoples from the

- Western parts North America.
- And, the X Haplogroup occurs most frequently among Algonquian speaking peoples in the North Central and Great Lakes Regions.

Test can be performed with a high degree of reliability and accuracy, because these haplogroups are extremely uncommon outside Native American populations. The test also can locate a specific region of origin of an individual's American Indian ancestry. This has been very helpful to those doing Indian genealogy research.

## What is Native American Y-chromosome DNA?

The Y-chromosome markers, which carry the genetic information, are passed from father to son. The Y-chromosome, like the mtDNA Haplogroups, contains certain portions of Haplogroups Q, P, and F that are specific to males with Native American blood or ancestry. If an individual tests positive for any one of these indicators, then the DNA test is taken a step further to provide more descriptive results as to geographic region or tribal origin.

## DNA Labs and Free test kits

It is very important to understand that

not all DNA testing companies are created equal. Most of the DNA companies you see advertised just collect the DNA samples. They do not do the actual testing.

In my opinion, you are better off having your DNA test done by a lab that actually does the testing. You can save money, get your results back faster, and plus you know who you are dealing with.

One of the oldest and most reliable Native American DNA testing *labs is [IdentiGene DNA Testing](#)*. You can click on their link to see more information or order a Native American DNA test kit. They are located in Utah and specialize in Native American testing.

## Conclusion:

**DNA testing can help you establish your membership in most of the 562 federally recognized American Indian Tribes.**

**It is also a great help in researching your family history.**

**Knowing your family history will give your children and grandchildren pride in their heritage.**