

# FamilyTreeDNA Unveils Groundbreaking mtDNA Tree of Humankind, Expanding Maternal Lineage Mapping by Over 35,000 Branches

*Historic Update Revolutionizes Human Origins Study, Offering Unprecedented Precision in Tracing Maternal Ancestry and Uncovering Hidden Migration Patterns*

HOUSTON, TX, UNITED STATES, March 10, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [FamilyTreeDNA](https://www.familytreedna.com), a pioneer in genetic genealogy, today announces the release of its new mtDNA Tree of Humankind, the most significant update to the mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) haplogroup tree in almost ten years. This groundbreaking enhancement, accompanied by upgraded mtDNA reports, offers users deeper insights into their maternal line ancestry than ever before, unlocking new findings that were previously out of reach.



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*Clayton Conder, Vice  
President of Marketing,  
FamilyTreeDNA*

What is mtDNA and Why Does It Matter?

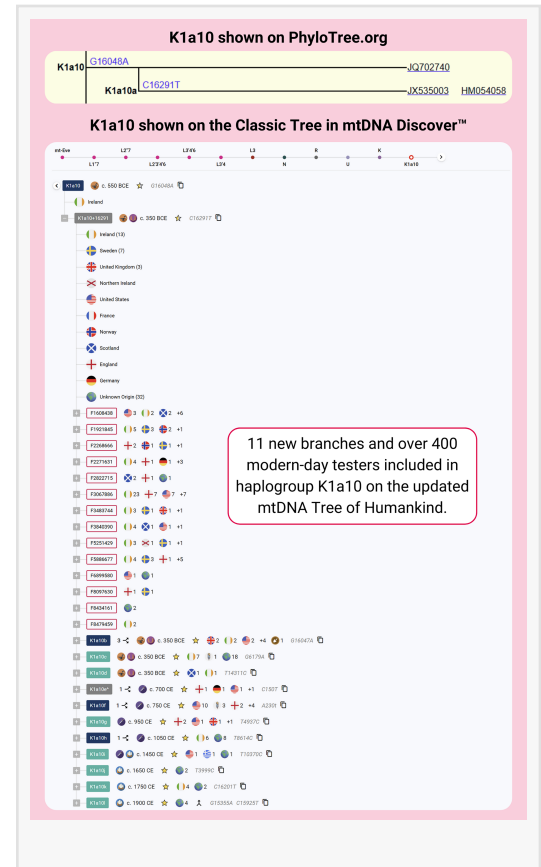
Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is passed exclusively from mother to child - to both sons and daughters - making it a powerful tool for tracing direct matrilineal ancestry. While standard autosomal DNA tests can help locate relatives across the entire family tree within the past five to seven generations, mtDNA testing offers something uniquely different - the ability to trace the direct maternal line back thousands of years. This means that regardless of gender, individuals can use mtDNA testing to explore their

mother's mother's mother's line deep into the past. Unlike traditional genealogy records, which

may be incomplete or inaccurate, mtDNA testing allows users to uncover deep ancestral connections and track maternal line migration patterns in ways that historical documents and standard DNA tests alone cannot reveal.

### A Historic Leap Forward in Maternal Lineage Analysis

The new mtDNA Tree of Humankind represents an unprecedented expansion of human maternal lineage mapping. While the previous industry standard, PhyloTree, contained approximately 5,400 haplogroups (distinct maternal lineage branches) as of 2016, FamilyTreeDNA's new tree adds over 35,000 new branches, with more discoveries on the horizon. This nearly eightfold increase in resolution marks a transformative moment in genetic genealogy and anthropological research, enabled by FamilyTreeDNA's unique position as the only direct-to-consumer DNA testing service offering full mitochondrial sequencing.



11 new branches and over 400 modern-day testers included in haplogroup K1a10 on the updated mtDNA Tree of Humankind.

### A More Advanced Maternal Lineage Analysis

Built from hundreds of thousands of mitochondrial sequences contributed by FamilyTreeDNA customers, Genographic Project testers, and public scientific datasets, this comprehensive update improves maternal haplogroup assignments, offering users more precise placement on the family tree. This enhanced precision means users can now identify specific maternal lineage connections that were previously impossible to detect. "This landmark update to our mtDNA tree demonstrates FamilyTreeDNA's ongoing commitment to advancing genetic genealogy," said Clayton Conder, Vice President of Marketing at FamilyTreeDNA. "By incorporating over 35,000 new branches, we're providing our customers with unprecedented precision in tracking their maternal heritage, helping them discover connections and migration stories that were previously hidden in their DNA."

### Enhanced mtDNA Discover Reports

To complement the updated tree, FamilyTreeDNA has revolutionized its mtDNA reports with a suite of powerful new features. Users can now explore their maternal heritage through richly detailed migration maps that trace their ancestral journeys across time and geography. The enhanced reports reveal potential connections to historical figures through maternal lineages and offer fascinating comparisons with ancient DNA from archaeological sites. Users can also gain unique insights into their haplogroup's global distribution, understanding how their maternal line fits into the broader story of human migration.

### A New Era for mtDNA Research

The launch of this updated tree and improved Discover reports marks a pivotal moment in the understanding of human maternal lineages. This unprecedented level of detail enables

researchers to identify previously unknown migration patterns, such as early human movement between continents and the formation of isolated population groups. "This tremendous expansion in the mtDNA tree's resolution allows us to write new chapters in the story of human migration and settlement," said Dave Vance, General Manager at FamilyTreeDNA. "Tracing maternal lines can also be a real challenge for genealogists due to limited records, so the expanded tree and new tools will help family historians no matter what era of their ancestry they are exploring."

### Why This Matters

This breakthrough in maternal DNA analysis has far-reaching implications for both individuals and researchers. For family historians, it means more precise answers about their maternal ancestry and connections with their closest relatives. For anthropologists and population geneticists, it provides fresh insight into human migration patterns and population dynamics throughout history. The enhanced resolution of the new tree could help identify previously unknown migration routes, ancient population movements, and connections between modern populations and their ancestors.

### Getting Started

The mtFull Sequence test, a comprehensive maternal lineage DNA test available for \$159, requires just a simple cheek swab. Current FamilyTreeDNA users can access their updated haplogroup assignments and enhanced reports immediately through their account dashboard. To learn more about maternal ancestral journeys and the new mtDNA Tree of Humankind and mtDNA Discover reports, please visit [www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com).

About Gene by Gene / FamilyTreeDNA: Gene by Gene, a CLIA/CAP-certified laboratory, is dedicated to providing high-quality genetic testing services. With a focus on innovation and precision, Gene by Gene offers a comprehensive range of genomic solutions to support healthcare providers, researchers, and patients worldwide.

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