



## **Facts about DNA Testing and American Indian Tribal Enrollment**

*Question: Can a DNA test prove a person has ancestry from an American Indian tribe or nation?*

Answer: No. DNA testing alone cannot prove ancestry from an American Indian tribe or any other ethnic group. However, DNA testing can be used as a tool to corroborate traditional genealogical documentation.

*Question: What can DNA testing prove?*

Answer: DNA testing can establish a biological relationship to a population or genetic region in these ways:

### **For people in search of American Indian ancestors:**

- DNA testing can identify the American Indian genetic regions and available populations (if any) where a person's DNA fits.
- This can provide genetic clues to assist in research to document any enrolled ancestors.

### **For tribal enrollment officials:**

- DNA testing can provide enrollment officials with a tool to screen applicants on the basis of genetic kinship to a tribal nation.
- If tribal data are available, test results can provide a TribeScore that indicates whether a person biologically fits in the tribal population. If a person's DNA does fit, this indicates a biological kinship that *might* reflect an ancestor from the tribe. If a person's DNA does not fit, this indicates their biological ancestry is outside the designated genetic range for the tribal nation.
- DNA testing can be used alongside traditional genealogy tracing descent from an enrolled ancestor. If both matching DNA and a documented genealogy are present, this provides historical and biological evidence of a connection to a tribal nation.

*DNA Tribes Genetic Ancestry Analysis*

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