Compare the companies
http://www.isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal_DNA_testing_comparison_chart

Beginning, How To's, Basics

--**** http://www.genealogyjunkie.net/starter-page-ancestrydna.html

--**** https://dna-explained.com/2015/02/02/getting-the-most-out-of-ancestrydna/
    About maximizing your tree use, circles, etc.

--ISOGG - http://www.isogg.org
            http://isogg.org/wiki/Wiki_Welcome_Page

--Genealogy Junkie
    http://www.genealogyjunkie.net/dna-tips-tools--managing-matches.html

--**Beginners Guide to Genetic Genealogy -
    https://sites.google.com/site/wheatonsurname/beginners-guide-to-genetic-genealogy

Great Blogs.
Maybe start at the beginning to learn and catch up!
But remember that some things have changed since they started!

Blaine Bettinger - http://thegeneticgenealogist.com

CeCe Moore - http://www.yourgeneticgenealogist.com

Roberta Estes - https://dna-explained.com

Kitty Cooper - http://blog.kittycooper.com

Judy G. Russell, The Legal Genealogist - http://www.legalgenealogist.com

Genealogy and Genomics - http://ourpuzzlingpast.com/geneblog/

3rd party apps

---AncestryDNA Helper – by Jeff Snavely – (try the tinyurl: http://tinyurl.com/p9ndt4b)
      or search "snavely ancestry dna helper"
   *Instructions at http://www.itstime.com/download/AncestryDNAHelper_HowToUse.pdf
   *The scan functions and downloading for ancestors is currently busted, but you can
get all the files easily at dnagedcom.com

---dnagedcom.com (includes link to the DNAGedcom Client for Windows and Mac)
    *Currently busted for getting the ICWs from Family Tree DNA, but it's being fixed.
        Totally worth the wait for the ADSA tool!
    *Currently works better for downloading AncestryDNA files.

---gedmatch.com
A great beginner's guide to gedmatch is at:
http://www.genie1.com.au/blog/78-tips-for-using-gedmatch

---Chromosome Mapper:
http://blog.kittycooper.com/tools/my-graphing-or-mapping-tools/

---Genomemate – a pretty big commitment to set up and use effectively, ~helpful if you
tested across the companies.
    https://genomemate.org/

---ISOGG's list of 3rd party tools, up to date:
http://isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal_DNA_tools

---Older helps for 23andme, not sure what still works with 23andme, some is medical, but
some is for genealogy:
http://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2013/09/22/what-else-can-i-do-with-my-dnatest-
results/
---http://www.23andyou.com/3rdparty

<u>What info do you need/want to track about your identified matches?</u>
Test I.D./Name
Email
Testing company
Other companies tested, i.d. there
Gedmatch kit#
Paternal/Maternal (abbrev or color-coded)
Relationship to you
Common ancestor and line down to ?? extent
Route to the MRCA in their tree
In-Common-With matches (to some extent)
Matching Segment(s) size(s) (full details, Chr-Start-Stop-cMs-SNPs)
Other notes

<u>Spreadsheet skills needed</u>
Open a file, or you can start with the download files (.csv) you can get/make
Enter headings or data
Copy/Paste
Paste Special (to get rid of formatting)
Insert rows or columns
Size columns
Move rows or columns (select/drag/drop or select/copy/paste)
Select whole rows or columns
Color background of cells
**Sort
      Figuring out the column needed
      Sort by multiple columns

Some Vocabulary

These and many more terms are explained on many sites and reading different people's wordings helps make them clearer!

cM (centiMorgan)
A unit of recombinant frequency for measuring genetic linkage. It is often used to imply distance along a chromosome, i.e. in chromosome browsers. Sizes of segments are NOT relative, between chromosomes or even on the same chromosome!!

Half Identical Region (HIR):
A region of two paired chromosomes where at least one of the two alleles [those letters ATCG] from one person's pair of chromosomes matches at least one of the two alleles from a different person's pair of chromosomes throughout the entire region. A half identical region may be either identical by descent (IBD) or identical by state (IBS).

IBS v. IBD
IBD = Identical by Descent: when half-identical regions (HIRs) in two people's autosomal DNA or on the X chromosome match (neglecting rare mutations and testing errors) due to the fact that the two people share a common ancestor and thus share a DNA segment that was passed down to both of them from that common ancestor.
IBS = Identical by State: when half-identical regions (HIRs) in two people's autosomal DNA or on the X chromosome match by coincidence or because of population origin. When two individuals share a half-identical region without being related, those results are IBS.

Phasing
– different types, by population, by relation, etc. Today we're using it to mean figuring out if a match is related on our paternal or maternal side.

"in-common-with", "shared matches"
- comparing the lists of matches of two people and returning which ones they have in common.

Triangulation
– 3 or more people match each other on a segment, A=B, B=C, A=C, etc.

Stacking or pile-ups
An area where a disproportionately large number of apparent matches occurs. Some can be IBD, but others can be various types of IBS--statistical anomalies, related to distant regional ancestry or ethnicity, or to particular characteristics.