

Defining Global Data

General syntax of `DEFINE DATA GLOBAL`:

```
DEFINE DATA
  GLOBAL USING global-data-area [WITH block[.block...]]
END-DEFINE
```

This chapter covers the following topics:

- Function
- Syntax Description

For an explanation of the symbols used in the syntax diagram, see *Syntax Symbols*.

Function

The `DEFINE DATA GLOBAL` statement is used to define data elements using a global data area (GDA).

Syntax Description

USING <i>global-data-area</i>	A global data area (GDA) contains data elements which can be referenced by more than one programming object.
WITH <i>block</i>	To save data storage space, you can create a global data area with data blocks. Data blocks can overlay one another during program execution, thereby saving storage space. The maximum number of block levels is 8 (including the master block). For further information, see <i>Data Blocks</i> in the <i>Programming Guide</i> .
<i>.block</i>	<i>.block</i> notation(s) specify the block(s) which are used in the program.
END-DEFINE	The Natural reserved word <code>END-DEFINE</code> must be used to end the <code>DEFINE DATA</code> statement.