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 GDA (see Global Data Area).

Syntax Description

Syntax Element	Description
`USING` *`global-data-area`*	**GDA Name:** Specify the name of a global data area (GDA) to be referenced. A GDA is created using the *Data Area Editor*. It contains predefined data elements which can be included in the `DEFINE DATA LOCAL` statement. In contrast to an LDA, the data elements defined in a GDA can be referenced by more than one programming object. For further information, see Global Data Area in the *Programming Guide*.
`WITH` *`block`*	**Data Blocks:** 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 *Data Blocks* in the *Programming Guide*.
`.block`	**Block(s) to be Used:** A single or multiple *`.block`* notations specify the block(s) which are used in the program.
`END-DEFINE`	**End of DEFINE DATA Statement:** The Natural reserved word `END-DEFINE` must be used to end the `DEFINE DATA` statement.