# 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<br>*global-data-area* | **GDA Name:**<br><br>Specify the name of a global data area (GDA) to be referenced.<br><br>A GDA is created using the *Data Area Editor*. It contains predefined data elements which can be included in the DEFINE DATA LOCAL statement.<br><br>In contrast to an LDA, the data elements defined in a GDA can be referenced by more than one programming object.<br><br>For further information, see Global Data Area in the *Programming Guide*. |
| WITH *block* | **Data Blocks:**<br><br>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.<br><br>The maximum number of block levels is 8 (including the master block).<br><br>For further information, see *Data Blocks* in the *Programming Guide*. |
| *.block* | **Block(s) to be Used:**<br><br>A single or multiple *.block* notations specify the block(s) which are used in the program. |
| END-DEFINE | **End of DEFINE DATA Statement:**<br><br>The Natural reserved word END-DEFINE must be used to end the DEFINE DATA statement. |