



# Step-by-Step: BigQuery in action

This reading provides you with the steps the instructor performs in the following video, [BigQuery in action](#) . The video focuses on how to create a query to view a small section of data from a large dataset.

Keep this guide open as you watch the video. It can serve as a helpful reference if you need additional context or clarification while following the video steps. This is not a graded activity, but you can complete these steps to practice the skills demonstrated in the video.

## What you'll need

To follow along with the examples in this video, log in to your BigQuery account and follow the instructions to star bigquery-public-data in **The Explorer pane** section of the previous reading, [Get Started with BigQuery](#) .

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## Example 1: Preview a section from a table viewer

A database is a collection of data stored in a computer system. Query languages such as SQL enable communication between databases and data analysts. You discovered earlier that a relational database is made up of several tables that may be joined together to create relationships. Primary and foreign keys serve as representations of these relationships. To extract data from these tables, data analysts use queries. To learn more about that, explore BigQuery in action:

1. Log in to [BigQuery](#) and go to your console. You should find the **Welcome to your SQL Workspace!** landing page open. Select **COMPOSE A NEW QUERY** in the BigQuery console. Make sure that no tabs are open so that the entire workspace is displayed, including the **Explorer** pane.
2. Enter **sunroof** in the search bar. In the search results, expand **sunroof\_solar** and then select the **solar\_potential\_by\_postal\_code** dataset.
3. Observe the **Schema tab** of the **Explorer** pane to explore the table fields.
4. Select the **Preview** tab to view the regions, states, yearly sunlight, and more.