[A **data lake** is a centralized repository designed to store, process, and secure large amounts of structured, semistructured, and unstructured data, allowing for flexible storage and analysis of diverse data types1](https://cloud.google.com/learn/what-is-a-data-lake).

Here are **five free learning resources** to help you explore data lakes:

1. [**Google Cloud’s Data Lake Overview**](https://cloud.google.com/learn/what-is-a-data-lake): Learn about modernizing your data lake on Google Cloud and get started with $300 in free credits.
2. [**AWS Introduction to Data Lakes**](https://aws.amazon.com/what-is/data-lake/): Understand the basics of data lakes, including their purpose, benefits, and architecture.
3. [**Databricks Introduction to Data Lakes**](https://www.databricks.com/discover/data-lakes): Explore how data lakes transform raw data into structured data for analytics and machine learning.
4. [**edX Data Lakes Courses**](https://www.edx.org/learn/data-lakes): Access online courses covering data lake management, from introductory tutorials to advanced techniques.
5. [**Stitch Data’s Data Lake Guide**](https://www.stitchdata.com/resources/what-is-data-lake/): Dive deeper into data lake concepts and solutions.

[Remember to consider your specific data needs, acquisition process, and organizational skill sets when deciding whether a data lake is right for your company](https://cloud.google.com/learn/what-is-a-data-lake)[2](https://www.edx.org/learn/data-lakes).