

Big Data: A Different Kind of Science

The four **Big Data Stories** provide examples of how “big data” can be used to improve medicine or healthcare. Read the questions below and then use the information in the **Big Data Stories** answer the questions.

1. What is meant by the term “big data?”

2. Big data research combines knowledge from many different fields. List three different subjects that would be important in collecting and analyzing big data to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases.

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3. People who work in the big data field collect and organize different types of data from a variety of sources, such as doctor’s office records and social media. Use the information in the stories to make a list of five sources for data that could be used in a big data set.

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4. People who work in the field of medical informatics “mine” big data. What does “mining” big data mean?

5. Describe two ways that big data research is different from traditional large research studies, such as controlled experiments.

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6. Explain why some people are concerned that big data research violates laws that ensure an individual’s right to privacy.
