

Asia Developer Academy



Creating a RESTful API with MongoDB and Express

Step 1: Install the following modules:

- 1) `express`
- 2) `mongoose`
- 3) `body-parser`

express

Express

[Home](#) [Getting started](#) [Guide](#) [API reference](#) [Advanced topics](#) [Resources](#)

Express 4.15.3

Fast, unopinionated,
minimalist web
framework for **Node.js**

```
$ npm install express --save
```



Web Applications

Express is a minimal and flexible Node.js web application framework that provides a robust set of features for web and mobile applications.

APIs

With a myriad of HTTP utility methods and middleware at your disposal, creating a robust API is quick and easy.

Performance

Express provides a thin layer of fundamental web application features, without obscuring Node.js features that you know and love.

Frameworks

Many [popular frameworks](#) are based on Express.

mongoose

mongoose

elegant **mongodb** object modeling for **node.js**

read the docs

discover plugins



Version 4.10.4



Let's face it, **writing MongoDB validation, casting and business logic boilerplate is a drag**. That's why we wrote Mongoose.

```
var mongoose = require('mongoose');
mongoose.connect('mongodb://localhost/test');

var Cat = mongoose.model('Cat', { name: String });

var kitty = new Cat({ name: 'Zildjian' });
kitty.save(function (err) {
  if (err) {
    console.log(err);
  }
});
```

body-parser

body-parser

npm v1.17.2 downloads 8M/month build passing coverage 100% tips \$2.35/week

Node.js body parsing middleware.

Parse incoming request bodies in a middleware before your handlers, available under the `req.body` property.

[Learn about the anatomy of an HTTP transaction in Node.js.](#)

This does not handle multipart bodies, due to their complex and typically large nature. For multipart bodies, you may be interested in the following modules:

- [busboy](#) and [connect-busboy](#)
- [multiparty](#) and [connect-multiparty](#)
- [formidable](#)
- [multer](#)

This module provides the following parsers:

- [JSON body parser](#)
- [Raw body parser](#)
- [Text body parser](#)
- [URL-encoded form body parser](#)

2. Create your server.js file

```
var express    = require('express');           // call express
var app        = express();                   // define our app using express
var bodyParser = require('body-parser');

app.use(bodyParser.urlencoded({ extended: true }));
app.use(bodyParser.json());

var port = process.env.PORT || 8080;         // set our port
```

3. Set up the route to our API

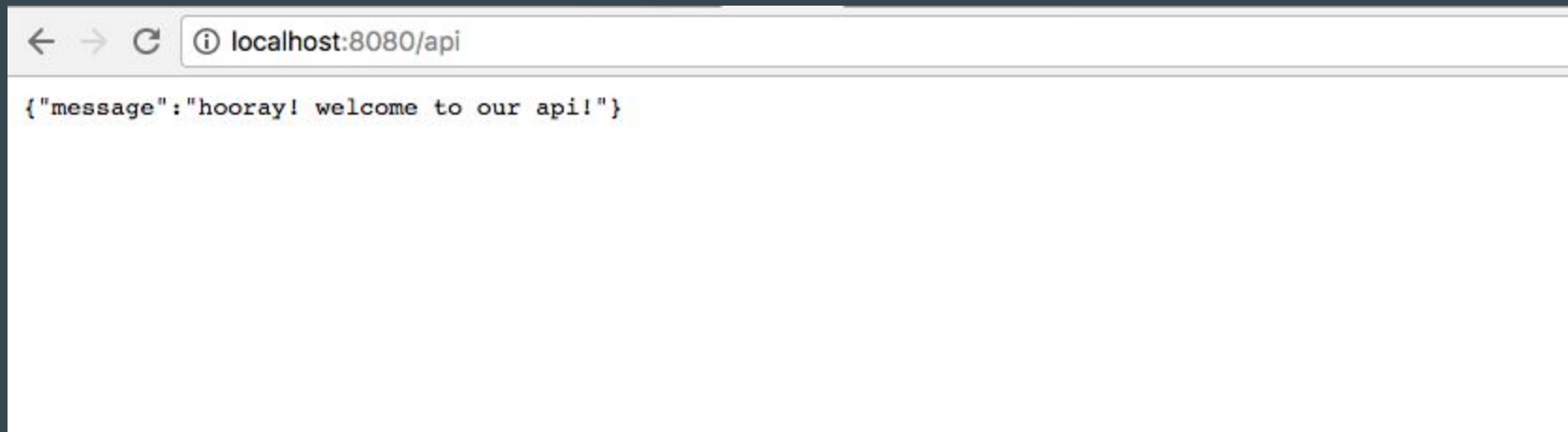
```
var router = express.Router();

router.get('/', function(req, res) {
  res.json({ message: 'hooray! welcome to our api!' });
});

app.use('/api', router);

app.listen(port);
console.log('Magic happens on port ' + port);
```

4. Test the route in browser



5. Connect to MongoDB database using mongoose

```
var mongoose = require('mongoose');  
mongoose.connect('<mongodb address from mlab>')
```

6. Create the Object Schema of our Model.

```
var mongoose    = require('mongoose');
var Schema      = mongoose.Schema;

var PlaceSchema = new Schema({
  name: String,
  description: String,
  country: String,
  categories: [],
  createdAt : {type: Date, default: Date.now}
});

module.exports = mongoose.model('Place', PlaceSchema);
```

7. Import the schema inside server.js

```
var Place = require('./app/models/place');
```

8. Create route to Create new place.

```
router.route('/places')

  .post(function(req, res) {

    var place = new Place();
    place.name = req.body.name;
    place.description = req.body.description;
    place.country = req.body.country;

    place.save(function(err) {
      if (err)
        res.send(err);

      res.json({ message: 'Place created!' });
    });

  });
```

9. Test the API on Postman

The screenshot shows a Postman interface for a POST request to `localhost:8080/api/places`. The request body is set to `x-www-form-urlencoded` and contains the following data:

Key	Value
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> name	Kuala Kangsar
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> description	The royal city of Perak.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> country	Malaysia
New key	value

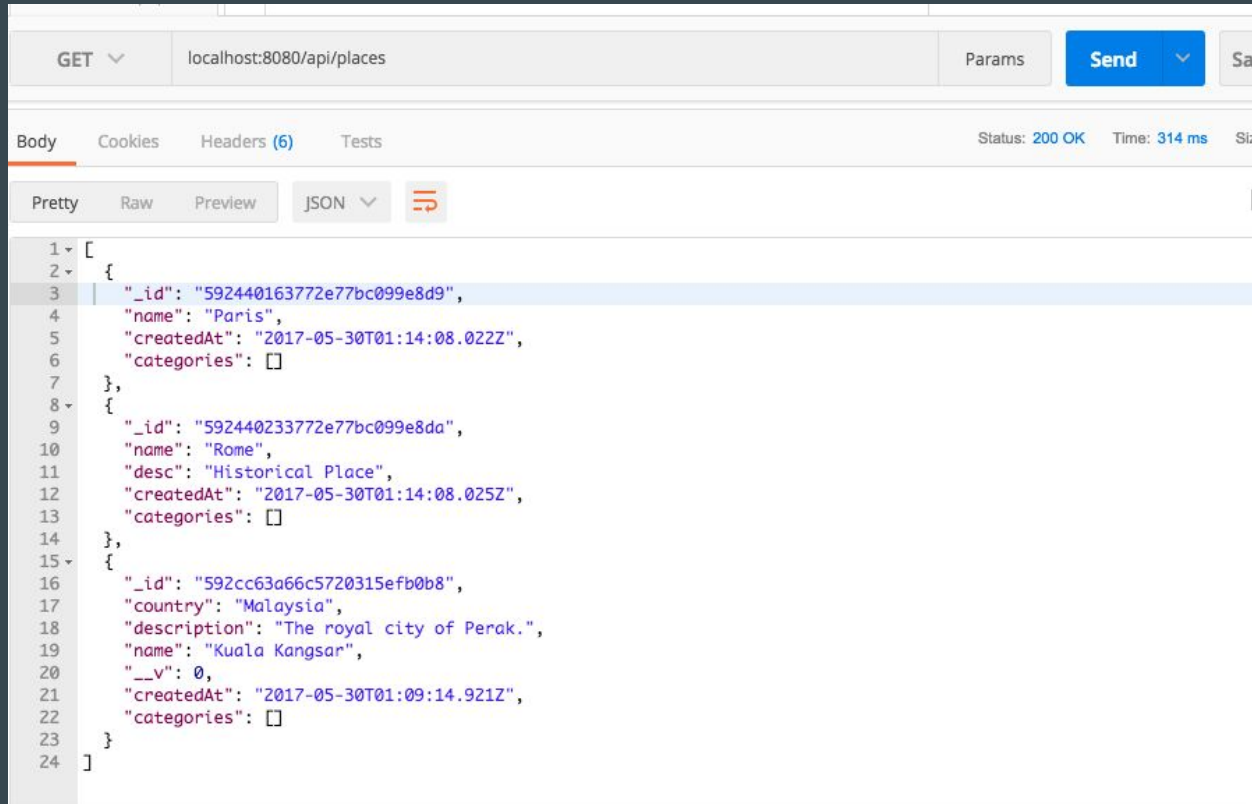
The response status is `200 OK` with a time of `472 ms`. The response body is displayed in JSON format:

```
1 {  
2   "message": "Place created!"  
3 }
```

10. Create route to GET place

```
.get(function(req, res) {  
  Place.find(function(err, places) {  
    if (err)  
      res.send(err);  
  
    res.json(places);  
  });  
});
```

11. Test the request in POSTMAN



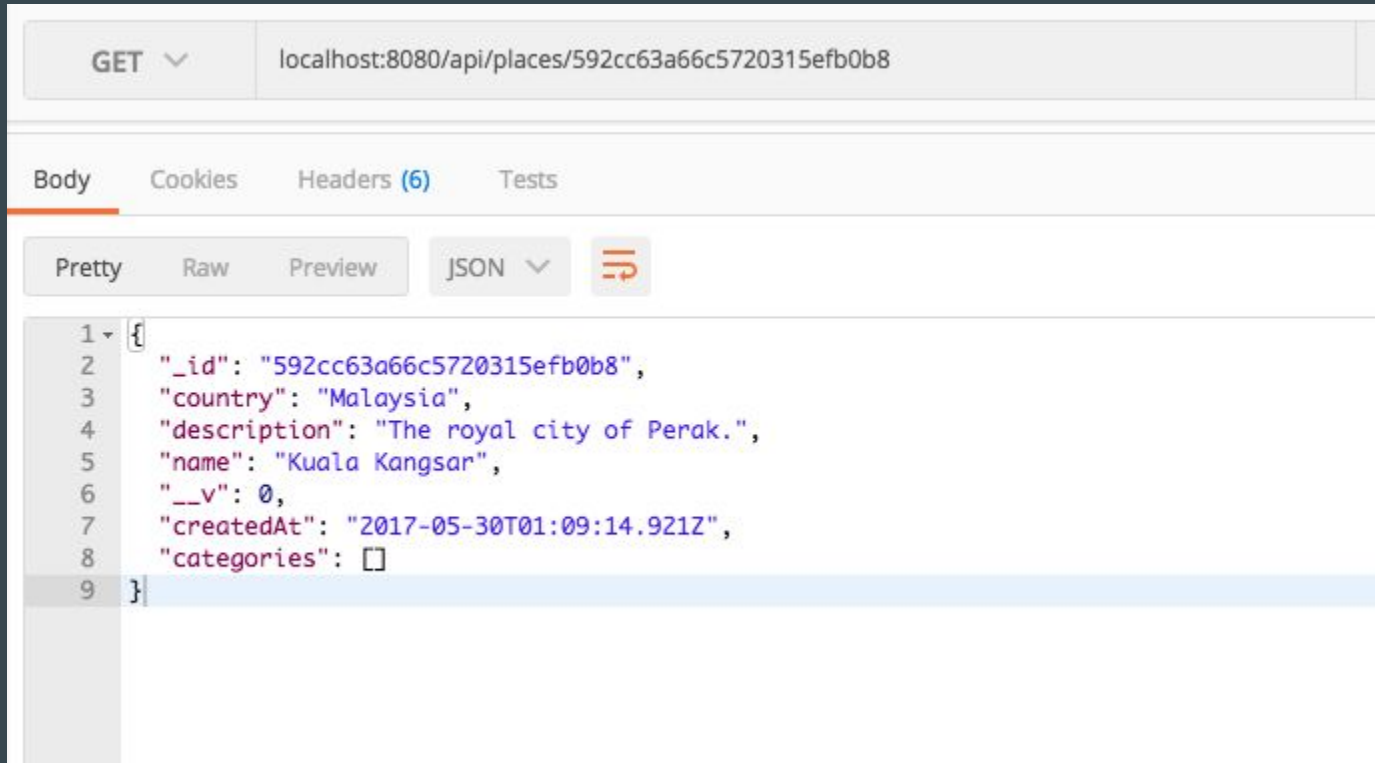
The screenshot shows the Postman interface with a GET request to `localhost:8080/api/places`. The response status is 200 OK and the time taken is 314 ms. The response body is displayed in JSON format, showing an array of three place objects.

```
1 [
2   {
3     "_id": "592440163772e77bc099e8d9",
4     "name": "Paris",
5     "createdAt": "2017-05-30T01:14:08.022Z",
6     "categories": []
7   },
8   {
9     "_id": "592440233772e77bc099e8da",
10    "name": "Rome",
11    "desc": "Historical Place",
12    "createdAt": "2017-05-30T01:14:08.025Z",
13    "categories": []
14  },
15  {
16    "_id": "592cc63a66c5720315efb0b8",
17    "country": "Malaysia",
18    "description": "The royal city of Perak.",
19    "name": "Kuala Kangsar",
20    "__v": 0,
21    "createdAt": "2017-05-30T01:09:14.921Z",
22    "categories": []
23  }
24 ]
```

12. Create GET by ID function

```
.get(function(req, res) {  
  Place.findById(req.params.place_id, function(err, place) {  
    if (err)  
      res.send(err);  
    res.json(place);  
  });  
});
```


13. Test the request in POSTMAN



The screenshot shows the Postman interface for a GET request. The URL is localhost:8080/api/places/592cc63a66c5720315efb0b8. The response is displayed in the Body tab, formatted as JSON. The response contains the following data:

```
1 {
2   "_id": "592cc63a66c5720315efb0b8",
3   "country": "Malaysia",
4   "description": "The royal city of Perak.",
5   "name": "Kuala Kangsar",
6   "__v": 0,
7   "createdAt": "2017-05-30T01:09:14.921Z",
8   "categories": []
9 }
```

14. Update the places using POST.

```
.post(function(req, res) {  
    Place.findById(req.params.place_id, function(err, place) {  
        if (err)  
            res.send(err);  
  
        place.name = req.body.name;  
        place.description = req.body.description;  
        place.country = req.body.country;  
  
        // save the place  
        place.save(function(err) {  
            if (err)  
                res.send(err);  
  
            res.json({ message: 'Place updated!' });  
        });  
    });  
});
```

15. Test Update on POSTMAN

The screenshot displays the Postman interface for a POST request. The URL is localhost:8080/api/places/592cc63a66c5720315efb0b8. The request body is set to x-www-form-urlencoded and contains the following data:

Key	Value
name	Kuala Kangsar
description	The royal city of Perak. Home to the first Caoutchouc Tree in Malaysia.
country	Malaysia
New key	value

The response is a JSON object with a status of 200 OK, a time of 325 ms, and a size of 24 bytes. The response body is displayed in the Pretty view:

```
1 {  
2   "message": "Place updated!"  
3 }
```

16. Retrieve updated content in POSTMAN.

The screenshot shows the Postman interface for a GET request. The URL is localhost:8080/api/places/592cc63a66c5720315efb0b8. The response status is 200 OK, with a time of 4212 ms and a size of 44 bytes. The response body is displayed in JSON format, showing details for Kuala Kangsar, Malaysia.

```
1 {
2   "_id": "592cc63a66c5720315efb0b8",
3   "country": "Malaysia",
4   "description": "The royal city of Perak. Home to the first Caoutchouc Tree in Malaysia.",
5   "name": "Kuala Kangsar",
6   "__v": 0,
7   "createdAt": "2017-05-30T01:09:14.921Z",
8   "categories": []
9 }
```

17. Add Delete function.

```
.delete(function(req, res) {
  Place.remove({
    _id: req.params.place_id
  }, function(err, place) {
    if (err)
      res.send(err);

    res.json({ message: 'Successfully deleted' });
  });
});
```

18. Test on POSTMAN

The screenshot displays the Postman interface for configuring a DELETE request. The URL bar shows 'localhost:8080/api/places/592cc63a66c5720315efb0b8'. The request method is set to 'DELETE'. The 'Body' tab is selected, and 'form-data' is chosen as the body type. A table for key-value pairs is visible, with a 'New key' entry and a 'Text' type set to 'value'. The 'Response' section is currently empty.

localhost:8080/api/places/592cc63a66c5720315efb0b8

No Environment

DELETE localhost:8080/api/places/592cc63a66c5720315efb0b8 Params Send Save

Authorization Headers (1) **Body** Pre-request Script Tests Cookies Code

form-data x-www-form-urlencoded raw binary

Key	Value	Bulk Edit
New key	Text value	

Response