

## Introduction: Nodes in JavaScript

Now that you have an understanding of what nodes are, let's see one way they can be implemented using Javascript.

We will create a basic node that contains data and one link to another node. The node's data will be specified when creating the node and immutable (can't be updated). Remember that a node's link to the next node is `null` when there are no nodes to traverse.

Go ahead and take a look at the starter code in the editor. You will find the `Node` class defined. `module.exports` allows the `Node` class to be used outside this module. Make sure to always leave this line of code. We'll need it when we use this class to implement more complex data structures.

### Instructions

#### 1.

Let's begin by setting up the constructor for our `Node` class. Since nodes contain data, we want the constructor to expect a `data` argument of any type to be passed in. The constructor can assign the given argument to the `data` property of the `Node` instance.

Be sure to set the arguments to the appropriate properties in this class (i.e. `this.data`).

---

#### Hint

Remember, classes are created using the `class` expression, and `constructor` is a method that will run when an instance of the class is first created.

```
class MyClass {  
  constructor(someValue) {  
    this.someValue = someValue;  
  }  
}
```

#### 2.

Let's check that our `Node` class has the correct data.

Underneath the `Node` class, instantiate a `Node` with any value and set it to `firstNode`. Then use `console.log()` to print out the instance's `data` property. We should see the value that the node was instantiated with in the terminal.

---

## Hint

Create a `Node` instance using the `new` operator and assign it to the variable `firstNode`:

```
const firstNode = new Node();
```

### 3.

We also know that a node is aware of the other node it links to. We will represent this with the `next` property on the `Node` class.

Similar to how we created the `data` property in the constructor, let's do the same with the `next` node property. When the node is first created, it is an orphan node (a node with no links). Set the `next` node to `null`.

---

### 4.

Let's check that `next` node property was successfully set in the constructor.

Underneath the node we previously created, use `console.log()` to print out the instance's `next` node property. Check that `null` is output in the terminal.

## Node.js

```
class Node {  
  constructor(data) {  
    this.data = data;  
    this.next = null;  
  }  
}  
  
module.exports = Node;  
  
const firstNode = new Node('hi');  
console.log(firstNode.data);  
console.log(firstNode.next);
```

---

## Node Methods: Set Next Node

Currently when a node is created, the `next` node is initially set to `null`, and we do not have a formal way to change it. However, we want to allow the `next` node to be updated so it can be traversed and used in more complex data structures. For this, we will use a setter to modify `this.next` node property.

### Instructions

1.

Implement the `.setNextNode()` method in the `Node` class.

It should take `node` as an argument and update the `next` node property appropriately.

---

Hint

Make sure that you pass in a `node` argument and set it to the corresponding property.

2.

To verify that our `.setNextNode()` performs as intended, let's call the method on our `Node` instance. Create a second `Node` instance and set it to `secondNode`. Link it to the `firstNode` by passing `secondNode` to the call to `setNextNode`.

Now let's print out `firstNode` so we can see it in its entirety using `console.log()`. We should see the second node instance set to the `next` node property instead of the default `null` value.

---

Hint

To call a method on an instance of a class, you can access it similarly to a class property.

```
classInstance.method();
```

## Node.js

```
class Node {
  constructor(data) {
    this.data = data;
    this.next = null;
  }

  setNextNode(node) {
    this.next = node;
  }
}

const firstNode = new Node('I am an instance of a Node!');

module.exports = Node;
firstNode.setNextNode();
const secondNode = new Node();
firstNode.setNextNode(secondNode);
console.log(firstNode);
```

---

## Node Methods: Set Next Node Validation

We arbitrarily set our `next` node to any argument that gets passed in. This can be problematic. Imagine if the `next` node accidentally gets set to a different data type, like a string. We run the risk of mistakenly confusing the string for a node, and we would have to build out special support to avoid traversing anything that is not a node.

To prevent these unnecessary complications, let's add in a check that only allows arguments that are `instanceof` nodes or `null`. We want to allow `null` values as an argument in the event that we want to break the link between a node and its next node.

## Instructions

### 1.

Inside `.setNextNode()`, check if the `node` argument is an `instanceof` the `Node` class. If the argument is a `Node` or `null`, set `this.next` equal to `node`. Otherwise, throw an error.

---

## Hint

When we check if a variable is an `instanceof` a class, it will evaluate to a boolean, like so:

```
const x = new String('this is a string');
// this will evaluate to true
if (x instanceof String || x === null) {
  console.log('x is a string!');
}
```

We can also throw an instance of an `Error` and pass it an informational message.

```
throw new Error('message');
```

## 2.

We know that we can set the `next` node to another node, so let's verify that `.setNextNode()` will not accept an argument that is not a node.

Call the `.setNextNode()` method on our `Node` instance and pass it any argument that is not a node. We expect to see an error in the terminal because you didn't set the next node to a `Node` instance.

---

## Hint

For the argument, you can choose anything, like a string, boolean, number, array, etc.

## Node.js

```
class Node {
  constructor(data) {
    this.data = data;
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  }

  setNextNode(node) {
    if (node instanceof Node || node === null) {
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    } else {
      throw new Error('node has to be an instance of the Node class');
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firstNode.setNextNode(rana);

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---

## Node Methods: Get Next Node

We could continue accessing the `next` node property directly, like how we have been doing so far. However, if we ever want it to be given in a special way, we would want to use a getter to handle the preprocessing.

Let's go ahead and create a simple `.getNextNode()` method that just returns the `next` node property.

### Instructions

1.

Implement the `.getNextNode()` method in the `Node` class.

---

Hint

The method should return the node's `next` node property.

2.

Using the `Node` instance that we have already created, verify that the `.getNextNode()` method returns the correct `next` node property by logging the call from `firstNode`.

**Node.js**

```
class Node {  
  constructor(data) {  
    this.data = data;  
    this.next = null;  
  }  
  
  setNextNode(node) {  
    if (node instanceof Node || node === null) {
```

```

    this.next = node;
  } else {
    throw new Error('Next node must be a member of the Node class.');
```

```

  }
}

getNextNode(node) {
  return this.next;
}
}

const firstNode = new Node('I am an instance of a Node!');
const secondNode = new Node('I am the next Node!');
firstNode.setNextNode(secondNode);
console.log(firstNode.getNextNode(secondNode));

module.exports = Node;
```

---

## Review: Nodes in JavaScript

Let's see all of our `Node` class methods together in action!

Imagine we are working at an ice cream shop that sells three flavors: strawberry, vanilla, and coconut. The signature sundae is made of these three flavors, but our new hires have a hard time remembering the order.

To help them remember, our JavaScript nodes may do just the trick. Let's get started...

### Instructions

#### 1.

Outside of `Node`, instantiate three more nodes.

- The first will represent our strawberry ice cream with the name, 'Berry Tasty'. Assign it to the variable, `strawberryNode`
- The second will represent our vanilla ice cream with the value, 'Vanilla'. Assign it to the variable, `vanillaNode`

- The third will represent our coconut ice cream with the value, 'Coconuts for Coconut'. Assign it to the variable, `coconutNode`
- 

## 2.

Now let's put these ice cream nodes in order. vanilla goes first, followed by strawberry. Finally, coconut goes after strawberry.

Below the newly created nodes, use your `.setNextNode()` method so that:

- `strawberryNode` is the `next` node of `vanillaNode`
  - `coconutNode` the `next` node of `strawberryNode`
- 

## 3.

Let's walk through our ice cream nodes to make sure that they are linked in the correct order. Create a new `currentNode` and set it `vanillaNode`. We will use `currentNode` to iterate through the nodes, so declare it using `let`. Create a `while` loop that will only iterate when the `currentNode` is not `null`.

Inside the `while` loop, log out the `currentNode`'s `data`, and update `currentNode` to the next node.

We should see the ice cream flavors in order of vanilla, strawberry, and coconut in the terminal.

When your code is passing, take a moment to consider:

- What other ways do you think nodes could be helpful for keeping track of and storing information?
  - What could happen if we added another link to the `Node` class?
  - What if we created an instance of a `Node` with another `Node` instance?
- 

### Hint

We can iterate through the nodes in a similar way that we would an array.

```
const sampleArray = [1, 2, 3];

let currentIndex = 0;
while(currentIndex < sampleArray.length) {
  currentIndex += 1;
}
```

`currentIndex` is what we use to iterate through our nodes, so we set it to the very first position. In the `while` condition, we check to make sure there are no more positions left to iterate on, and inside the loop, we update the current position to the next position.

#### Node.js

```
class Node {
  constructor(data) {
    this.data = data;
    this.next = null;
  }

  setNextNode(node) {
    if (node instanceof Node || node === null) {
      this.next = node;
    } else {
      throw new Error('Next node must be a member of the Node class.');
```

```
module.exports = Node;
```