**Steps To Create the REST API**

1. Create our Database and Needed Tables in MySQL
   1. Populate tables with data values
2. Create a Spring Boot project
   1. Add needed dependencies to the pom.xml OR select them from UI menu when creating a Spring Starter Project
   2. Update Maven to import dependencies
3. Configure database connection in application.yml
4. Add security with a configuration file
5. Create Entity/Model classes to represent our tables
6. Create our Repository classes for database access
7. Create needed DTO classes to model request/response on API layer
8. Add a Mapper class to map Entity to DTO
9. Create our Service Layer classes, holding logic for CRUD operations
10. Create API layer Controller classes to fulfill the requests and respond back to the UI/User with a valid response.
11. Add CORS configuration class (Cross-Origin Resource Sharing) because our UI may be on a different system from our API
12. Test API methods using Swagger or Postman or other services