**Explain how to consume REST APIs from React applications**  
To consume REST APIs from React applications, developers typically use the fetch API or third-party libraries like Axios to make HTTP requests. The process begins by initiating a request to the desired API endpoint (e.g., using fetch(url)), often inside a useEffect hook to trigger the request after the component mounts. Once the response is received, it is usually converted to JSON using .json() and stored in the component’s state using the useState hook. This fetched data can then be rendered within the component.

React’s component lifecycle or hooks help manage asynchronous API interactions effectively. Additionally, proper error handling using .catch() or try-catch blocks should be implemented to manage failed requests or unexpected responses. Consuming REST APIs allows React applications to dynamically display or manipulate backend data, making them interactive and data-driven.