Declare app dependencies

Heroku recognizes an app as Node.js by the existence of a `package.json` file in the root directory. For your own apps, you can create one by running `npm init --yes`.

The demo app you deployed already has a `package.json`, and it looks something like this:

```
{
  "name": "node-js-getting-started",
  "version": "0.3.0",
  ...
  "engines": {
    "node": "8.11.1"
  },
  "dependencies": {
    "ejs": "^2.5.6",
    "express": "^4.15.2"
  },
  ...
}
```

The `package.json` file determines both the version of Node.js that will be used to run your application on Heroku, as well as the dependencies that should be installed with your application. When an app is deployed, Heroku reads this file and installs the appropriate node version together with the dependencies using the `npm install` command.

Run this command in your local directory to install the dependencies, preparing your system for running the app locally:

```
$ npm install
added 132 packages in 3.368s
```

Once dependencies are installed, you will be ready to run your app locally.

Report a problem

I've installed the app dependencies locally (declare-app-dependencies)