**Step 1: Create a Virtual Network (VNet)**

1. Navigate to the **Azure Portal**.
2. Go to **Virtual Networks** > **Create a virtual network**.
3. Provide the necessary details:
   * **Name**: MyVNet
   * **Region**: Select the same region as your VMs.
   * **Address Space**: 10.0.0.0/16
   * **Subnet Name**: MySubnet
   * **Subnet Address Range**: 10.0.1.0/24
4. Click **Review + Create**, then **Create**.

**Step 2: Deploy Virtual Machines (VMs)**

1. Navigate to **Azure Portal** > **Virtual Machines** > **Create VM**.
2. Choose the following configurations:
   * **Name**: VM1
   * **Region**: Select the same region as the VNet.
   * **Image**: Select **Ubuntu** or **Windows Server**.
   * **Size**: Choose an appropriate VM size (e.g., Standard\_B1s).
   * **Public inbound ports**: Select **None** (we'll use the load balancer).
   * **Virtual Network**: Select MyVNet.
   * **Subnet**: Select MySubnet.
3. Under the **Management** tab, disable **Boot Diagnostics**.
4. Click **Review + Create**, then **Create**.
5. Repeat these steps to create VM2.

**Step 3: Install Web Server on VMs**

1. SSH into each VM (VM1 and VM2).
2. Install a basic web server:
3. sudo apt update
4. sudo apt install -y apache2
5. echo "Welcome to VM1" | sudo tee /var/www/html/index.html # For VM1
6. echo "Welcome to VM2" | sudo tee /var/www/html/index.html # For VM2
7. sudo systemctl start apache2

sudo systemctl enable apache2

**Step 4: Create an Azure Load Balancer**

1. Navigate to **Azure Portal** > **Load Balancers** > **Create**.
2. Provide the following details:
   * **Name**: MyLoadBalancer
   * **Region**: Same as VMs
   * **Type**: Public
   * **SKU**: Standard
   * **Public IP**: Create a new public IP (MyLoadBalancerIP).
3. Click **Review + Create**, then **Create**.

**Step 5: Configure Backend Pool**

1. Go to **MyLoadBalancer** > **Backend Pools** > **Add**.
2. Provide a **name** (e.g., MyBackendPool).
3. Select **Associated Virtual Network**: MyVNet.
4. Under **Backend Pool Configuration**, select **Virtual Machines** and add VM1 and VM2.
5. Click **Add**.

**Step 6: Create a Health Probe**

1. Navigate to **MyLoadBalancer** > **Health Probes** > **Add**.
2. Configure the probe:
   * **Name**: MyHealthProbe
   * **Protocol**: HTTP
   * **Port**: 80
   * **Path**: /
   * **Interval**: 5 seconds
   * **Unhealthy threshold**: 2
3. Click **OK**.

**Step 7: Configure Load Balancing Rule**

1. Go to **MyLoadBalancer** > **Load Balancing Rules** > **Add**.
2. Configure the rule:
   * **Name**: MyLBRule
   * **Frontend IP**: MyLoadBalancerIP
   * **Protocol**: TCP
   * **Port**: 80
   * **Backend Port**: 80
   * **Backend Pool**: MyBackendPool
   * **Health Probe**: MyHealthProbe
3. Click **OK**.

**Step 8: Test the Load Balancer**

1. Copy the **Public IP** of the Load Balancer from **MyLoadBalancer**.
2. Open a browser and navigate to http://<LoadBalancer\_Public\_IP>.
3. Refresh multiple times—you should see responses alternating between Welcome to VM1 and Welcome to VM2.