



Year 4  
Coastal Processes and Landforms

Key vocabulary

coastline	A narrow stretch between the sea and the land.
waves	A raised amount of water caused by the wind or tides. They are an important part of making coastlines.
transport	Taking something from one place to another.
groynes	A wall built from a riverbank or seashore to control erosion.
landform	A natural feature on the Earth's surface such as a hill, cliff or beach.
deposition	A process where layers are formed of a material over time.
fossil	Hard remains of a prehistoric plant or animal that are found inside a rock.
preserved	To make sure something remains as it is and does not change.

Human changes



Groynes are huge sections of wood placed along a beach by humans. It is built to reduce the amount of sand being transported by the sea. They help slow erosion but they cannot stop it.



Different plants and animals live in different coasts. Some are muddy and rocky, others are warm or dry.

Coastal habitats

Waves cause create different types of coastlines. The waves erode rocks or smash against the rocks and make them smoother. This changes the shape of coastlines as waves transport rocks up and down the coastline.

Coastlines are different throughout the UK.



Cliffs in Northern Ireland



A beach in Scotland



A seaside resort in Blackpool



Salt marshes in Norfolk



A harbour in Wales



Sand dunes in Suffolk

Types of coastal landforms



sandy beach



bay



shingle beach



headland

Along our coast we have different coastal landforms. All coastal landforms are formed by erosion.



cliffs