



Topic Overview

Faculty/Subject: Geography

Year Group: 9

Topic: Coasts

What BIG IDEAS will you cover in this topic?

What the coast is and how it works – understanding the meeting point between land and sea and the processes that shape it.

How waves form and behave – exploring different types of waves and how they influence coastal change.

How the coastline is shaped by natural processes – including erosion, transportation and deposition.

How distinctive landforms are created – such as caves, arches, stacks, stumps, headlands and bays.

The challenges coastal communities face – including erosion risks and the impact on people, homes and the environment.

How we protect the coast – comparing hard engineering (sea walls, groynes) with more sustainable soft engineering.

What important prior knowledge will you use from your prior learning?

This will link to the lessons covered on glaciation in year 7 and rivers in year 8 as it covers similar geographical processes such as erosion and deposition.

Where does this topic fit into the curriculum plan for this subject?

This is the last topic of year 9 and is the third physical topic which they will study.

What other key concepts, knowledge and skills will you learn in this topic?

Coastal processes: erosion (abrasion, attrition, hydraulic action), longshore drift and deposition.

Human–environment interaction: exploring how people use, protect and sometimes damage the coast.

Evaluating management strategies: assessing the advantages and disadvantages of different coastal defences.

Fieldwork-style skills: describing landforms, analysing photographs and sketching coastal features.

Map skills: using OS maps to identify symbols, contours, grid references and coastal features.

Assessment:

How and when will you be assessed on this topic? What will the success criteria be?

Students will complete a longer answer piece of writing

which will be based on what they have covered in a previous lesson. They will then receive written feedback on

this which they can use to improve.

What is the key vocabulary that you will need to

know in this topic?

Coastline

Swash / Backwash

Constructive wave

Destructive wave

Erosion

Hydraulic action

Abrasion

Attrition

Solution

Transportation

Longshore drift

Deposition

Cliff collapse / Mass movement

Cave → Arch → Stack → Stump

Headland / Bay

Sea wall

What is the structure of learning/ lessons in this topic?

1. What is the coast?
2. Types of waves
3. Erosion
4. Longshore drift
5. Cliff Collapse
6. Cave, arch, stack, stump
7. Headlands and bays
8. Issues with erosion
9. Sea walls and groynes
10. Soft engineering
11. OS Maps skills