

Coastal Erosion

Why is the coast changing?

Waves of Change

Year 4 Autumn 1

What is the coast?

- The coast is where the land meets the sea.
- The coast looks different in different parts of the UK – some have sandy beaches, some have pebble beaches, some have cliffs that lead down to the sea
- Some areas of the UK's coastline are more affected than others due to the type of rock in those areas



How does the sea shape the coastline?

- The sea changes the rocks along the coast through erosion, weathering and abrasion.
- Initially, a cave is eroded and this will become an arch when it breaks through a headland.
- Over time, the roof of the arch will collapse as the surrounding rocks are not strong enough to support it
- This leaves a stack, which will eventually be eroded to a stump



What effect does coastal erosion have on human activity?

- The East Yorkshire and North Norfolk coastlines are particularly affected by erosion
- In these places, the coastline eroded by several metres per year
- This means that homes and buildings near the coast are at risk
- Maps and photographs can show us how the coastline has changed over time



How can humans affect coastal erosion?

- People have used different methods to try to prevent coastal erosion
- Wooden groynes, concrete sea walls, gabions, revetments and rock armour are examples of hard defences
- Dune regeneration, beach nourishment & marsh creation are examples of soft defences



Assessment Task:

Should we try to save Happisburgh?

Look at the pros and cons of trying to defend the coastline at Happisburgh so that homes and businesses are protected.



Geographical Skills:

- I can ask which physical and human features a particular locality has and use observations and subject specific geographical vocabulary to explain these.
- I can ask questions about environmental issues affecting a particular locality and what impact this is having on both people and place.
- I can find out more detailed information about places and features of these places, through both observation and using other information sources.
- I can compare how a locality has changed over time and give reasons for this, using both human and physical factors in my explanation.
- I can explain the process of coastal erosion and how this can impact on people, giving precise observations from research about changes to human settlements.