Coastal Erosion

Why is the coast changing?

Waves of Change Year 4 Autumn 1

What is the coast?

- The coast is where the land the 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

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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



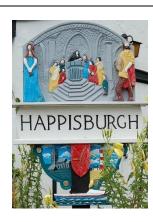
examples of hard defences

• 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.