

Geography

Key Vocabulary

WORD	DEFINITION
deposition	Deposition is the laying down of sediment carried by wind, flowing water, the sea or ice.
dune	A dune is a mound of sand formed by the wind, usually along the beach or in a desert.
erosion (displacement)	Erosion is when the surface of the Earth is worn away by natural forces such as water, wind, ice and gravity. Natural materials such as rock and soil may then be transported to a different place, causing the landscape to change.
headland	Also known as a 'head', is a coastal landform, a point of land usually high and often with a sheer drop, that extends into a body of water.
peninsula	A landform that extends from a mainland and is surrounded by water on most, but not all of its borders.
spit	An extended stretch of beach material that projects out to sea and is joined to the mainland at one end.
stack	A stack is a geological landform consisting of a steep and often vertical column or columns of rock in the sea near a coast, formed by wave erosion.
topographical	The arrangement of the physical features of particular area.
weathering (decomposition)	Weathering is the breaking down or dissolving of rocks on the surface of the Earth. The process of weathering breaks down and removes material from the coastlines. Weathering wears away exposed surfaces over time.

Biological weathering is the weakening and wearing away of rock by plants, animals and microbes. Plant roots can enter a small crack in a rock and then, as the root grows larger, the crack in the rock gets larger. This weakens the structure of the rock until it eventually breaks away.

Chemical weathering is when the molecular structure of rocks and soils are changed, therefore becoming weaker and eroding away. It is usually a result of rain or saltwater being slightly acidic. Sometimes coastlines are made up of rocks such as limestone or chalk and these types of rock can be affected by the acid in the water which then dissolves the rock over time.

Physical/mechanical weathering describes the process of rocks crumbling. Water is a key factor, as is temperature changes. The main type of this weathering is freeze-thaw. Another type of this weathering is a process called thermal stress. This is when changes in temperature cause rocks to expand and contract.

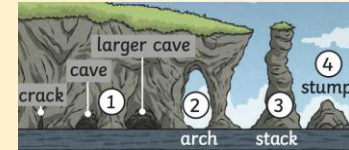
Coasts

Key Knowledge

Bays and Headlands - Where there is harder and softer rock, the softer rock will erode more quickly and can form bays. The harder rock erodes more slowly and can form headlands surrounding bays.



Arches, Stacks and Stumps - Softer or weak sections of the rock are eroded more easily. Over time, waves cause cracks to open forming caves. If a cave forms in a headland, it may break through causing an arch to form. The top of the arch can weaken and may collapse into the sea leaving a stack. Over time, the stack will erode leaving a small stump of rock.



Spits - Formed by deposition. 1. The tide carries eroded material along the coastline. 2. Deposits form a long, thin sandy area of land. 3. Changing winds may cause the spit to form a hook shape. 4. Mud flats develop on the inland side of the spit.



Fun facts:

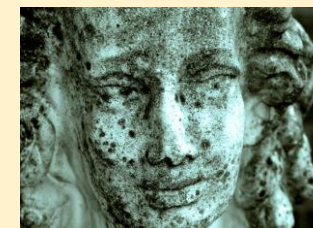
The UK is surrounded by the North Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea, Irish Sea and the English Channel. The UK has something like 17,800 km (11,000 miles) of coastline. That's about the length of 420 marathon races.

The UK coastline has lots of evidence of erosion and the power of the sea. Erosion makes the coastline varied and interesting, and often give the coastline its "wow" factor.

Biological weathering



Chemical weathering



Physical weathering

