



LOCATION AND MAPPING

- A coast is rock, sand, mud or gravel where land meets sea or ocean.
- The UK is bordered by the North Atlantic Ocean, North Sea, Irish Sea and English Channel; it is a maritime nation.
- Maps show human and physical coastal features. The UK includes one large island, part of another and thousands of smaller islands.
- The UK has diverse coastal features and land uses; almost all its coastline can be walked.



PEOPLE, SETTLEMENTS AND TOURISM

- Coasts attract tourists because of their landscapes and activities.
- Tourism brings economic benefits but can cause social and environmental problems.
- Cruise ships carry tourists around the world for weeks or months.
- In 2021, Venice banned large cruise ships from its waters and declared its lagoon a national monument.



COASTAL PROCESSES AND LANDFORMS

- Wind, waves and human activity erode coastlines.
- Erosion forms caves, arches and sea stacks.
- Hard rock erodes slowly to form headlands; soft rock erodes quickly to form bays.
- The sea transports sediment, creating patterns of erosion and deposition.
- Beach sediment patterns reflect wave energy and wind direction.



PROTECTING THE COAST

- Coastal erosion puts some people at risk of losing their homes.
- Hard and soft engineering include sea walls, groynes and beach nourishment.
- Different viewpoints must be considered when deciding whether defences are cost-effective.



COASTAL HABITATS AND ECOSYSTEMS

- Human activity and climate change threaten coastal habitats and ecosystems.
- Coastal settlements and industries affect habitats and wildlife populations.
- River estuaries can be pollution hotspots as rivers empty into oceans.
- Eco-tourism aims to repair damage by benefiting wildlife.



COASTS AND THE FUTURE

- Human activity increases greenhouse gases, causing rapid climate change.
- Rapid change is difficult for people and animals to adapt to.
- Higher temperatures melt land ice and expand water, causing sea-level rise.
- More energy in the atmosphere and oceans increases extreme-weather risk.

KEY VOCABULARY

coast - the area where land meets the sea or ocean.

maritime - connected with the sea, travel or trade.

human feature - something made or changed by people, such as a dock.

physical feature - a natural part of the landscape, such as a cliff.

erosion - rock or soil being worn away and moved by waves, wind or water.

geology - the rocks in an area and how they shape the land.

sediment - pieces of rock, sand or soil moved by water or wind.

deposition - sediment being dropped when water or wind loses energy.

ecosystem - living things interacting with surroundings.

sustainable - continuing without lasting harm.