Year 5 Finches

Geography

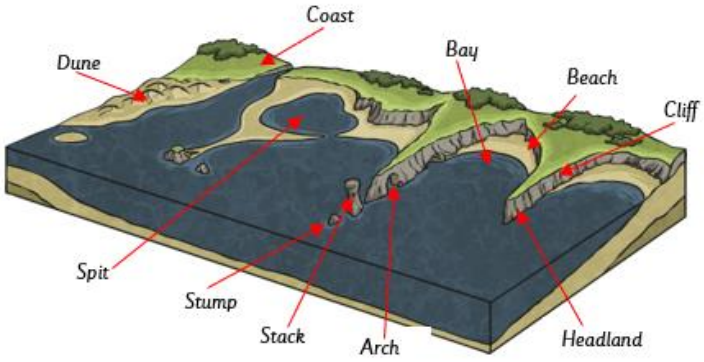
Summer 2

Coastal Erosion

What is Coastal Erosion?

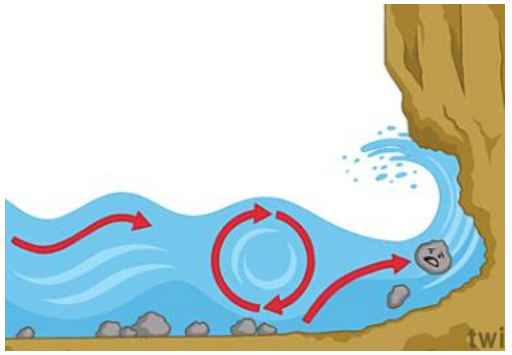
Coastal erosion is the name given to the process of the coastline being worn away by destructive waves. There are different types of coastal erosion, including abrasion, attrition, and hydraulic action.

Coastal Features



Key Vocabulary	Definition
abrasion	When pebbles grind along a rock platform, much like sandpaper.
arch	Wave-eroded passage through a small headland.
attrition	The sea picks up angular rocks and knocks them into each other, chipping away the corners.
bay	A body of water partially surrounded by land.
cave	A natural hollow in a cliff face.
cliff	A mass of rock that rises very high and is almost vertical, or straight u and down.
coast	The area where the sea and land meet.
deposition	When pieces of the Earth are transported and dumped somewhere else.
dune	A mound of sand formed by the wind.
erosion	When tiny pieces of the Earth's surface worn away.
headland	A point of land sticking out into the sea.
hydraulic action	The sheer power of the waves as they smash against a cliff.
ocean	A huge body of salt water.
resistance	A force that opposes or slows down another force.
shore	The area where land meets he ocean.
spit	An extended stretch of beach material that projects into the sea, joined to the mainland at one end.
stack	Landform consisting of a steep, often vertical column or columns of rock.
stump	The eroded remains of a sea stack, often looking like a lump of rock sticking up from its surroundings.

Abrasion, Attrition and Hydraulic Action



Abrasion uses sand and small pebbles to wear away and smooth out shorelines and headlands. It's often known as the sandpaper effect. Abrasion happens most often during stormy conditions.
Attrition is the process of waves causing rocks that have already been loosened away from the coastline to knock into each other and break apart.
Hydraulic action can also cause large pieces of the cliff face to break away just through the power and force of the waves crashing against it.

How does erosion change the coastline?

1: Caves can form where there is a weakness or crack in the rock.
2: Erosion may cause the cave to extend through the headland to form an arch.
3: Over time, the archway may collapse.
4: A stack is left.
5: This further erodes to leave a stump.