

Exploring Our Coastlines with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To understand the physical and human features of a coastline and identify how erosion shapes our shores.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of coastal geography to provide detailed answers. Use the word bank to help you with your explanations.

Finn the Dolphin has been swimming along the coastline all morning. He has noticed how the waves crash against the tall, rocky cliffs, and how the sandy beaches change shape after a storm. He also sees busy towns where people work and play by the sea. Geography helps us understand these natural processes and how humans interact with the ocean.

Word bank: erosion · deposition · cliff · harbour · headland · bay · stewardship · tourism

1. Finn observes that waves hit the cliff face repeatedly. Explain why this process of erosion causes the cliff to change shape over time. (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast a 'headland' and a 'bay'. What physical feature makes them different? (2 marks)

3. Many coastal towns rely on tourism. Justify why it is important for these towns to practice good stewardship of their beaches. (3 marks)

4. If you were planning to build a new harbour for fishing boats, why would you need to study the patterns of the local tides and currents? (2 marks)

5. What might happen to a sandy beach if a large concrete sea wall was built nearby? Consider the movement of sand. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a cross-section of a coastline. Include a label for a cliff, a beach, and a human-made feature like a lighthouse or a pier.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a coastal geographer. Write a short report (100 words) describing a newly discovered stretch of coast. Use at least four terms from the word bank and describe one human and one physical feature found there.