

Exploring Our Coastlines with Finn

Learning objective: To understand the physical features of a coastline and the processes that shape them.

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions below. Use the word bank to help you understand key geographical terms.

Finn the dolphin loves to glide along the jagged British coastline. From his home beneath the waves, he watches the powerful sea constantly reshaping the land. A coastline is where the land meets the ocean, and it is always changing. Sometimes, the sea crashes against hard rocks, creating a headland that sticks out into the water. In the softer areas between these headlands, the waves carve out a sheltered bay, often filled with golden sand. Finn notices that the sea is a master sculptor. Through the process of erosion, waves wear away cliffs, carrying pebbles and sand to new locations. This material is later dropped, or deposited, elsewhere to form wide beaches. While the cliffs stand tall and proud, they are slowly being refined by the relentless energy of the tides. Whether it is a towering cliff or a gentle beach, Finn knows that the coast is a dynamic environment that tells a story of millions of years of water, wind, and rock working in harmony.

Word bank: erosion · deposition · headland · bay · coastline · landform

1. According to the text, what is the difference between a headland and a bay? (2 marks)

2. What does Finn mean when he describes the sea as a 'master sculptor'? (2 marks)

3. Why might the coastline look different in a hundred years compared to how it looks today? (2 marks)

4. Explain why soft rock areas are more likely to become bays than hard rock areas. (2 marks)

5. Do you think it is important for humans to protect our coastlines? Justify your answer. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram of a coastline showing a headland, a bay, and a sandy beach. Add Finn the dolphin swimming in the water nearby.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a coastal explorer. Write a short diary entry describing a new landform you have discovered. Use the words 'erosion' and 'deposition' to explain how your landform was created. Then, explain what might happen to this landform if a massive storm hit the coast tonight.