

Grade 3 Geography Assessment: Exploring Our Coasts

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of coastal features, processes of erosion, and the impact of human activity on coastal environments.

Read each question carefully. Use your geographical vocabulary to explain your answers clearly. Write in full sentences where requested.

Finn the dolphin has spent the summer swimming along the British coastline. He has observed how the powerful waves crash against the cliffs, slowly carving out arches and caves. In some areas, the sandy beaches are growing wider as waves drop sand and pebbles, while in other spots, the land is retreating. Humans have built sea walls and harbours to protect the land, and many people visit these areas to enjoy the fresh sea air and ice cream shops.

Word bank: Erosion · Deposition · Headland · Bay · Coastline · Tourism · Lighthouse · Stack · Sediment

1. Define the geographical term 'erosion' and explain how it affects a cliff face over a long period of time. (2 marks)

2. Name one physical feature of a coastline and describe how it is formed. (2 marks)

3. Finn notices that a local store sells ice cream for £2.40. If a group of 5 children buy one ice cream each, what is the total cost? Show your working out. (2 marks)

4. Identify one way in which humans use the coastline. Why might this be beneficial to the local economy? (2 marks)

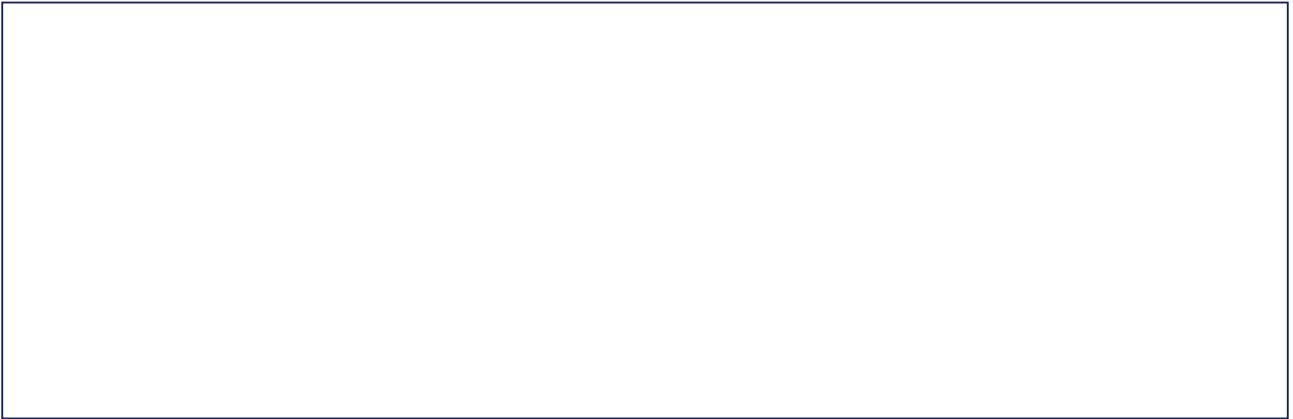
5. Compare a sandy beach with a rocky cliff. How do the processes of erosion and deposition differ in these two locations? (4 marks)

6. Justify why it is important for humans to protect our coastlines from rapid erosion. What might happen to local communities if sea levels continue to rise? (4 marks)

7. Explain why some parts of the coast have tall lighthouses. How do these structures assist sailors navigating the treacherous waters? (4 marks)

8. Extended Writing Task: Imagine you are a coastal scientist. Write a short report (approx. 100 words) describing a newly discovered section of the coast. Include details about its physical features, how the waves are changing the landscape, and suggest one way we could manage the area to protect wildlife. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram showing a headland and a bay. Use arrows to show where the waves are hitting the land most forcefully.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Deep Thinking Challenge: If you were tasked with building a new sea defense, would you choose a hard engineering solution (like a concrete wall) or a soft engineering solution (like planting dunes)? Justify your choice by explaining the long-term environmental impact of each.