Exploring Our Coastlines with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To describe the physical processes of coastal erosion and deposition and explain how coastlines change over time.

Use this scaffold to write a descriptive report about a section of the British coastline. Finn the Dolphin has helped you identify the key features; use the prompts below to structure your paragraphs.

The British coastline is a dynamic and ever-changing environment, shaped constantly by the powerful force of the sea.

Word bank: erosion · deposition · longshore drift · headlands · bays · sediment · consequently · furthermore · as a result · dramatic · gradually · waves

1. Introduction: Define the coastline and explain why it is always changing. Start your paragraph with: The coastline is the boundary where the land meets the sea, and it is constantly being reshaped by... (2 marks)

2. Erosion: Describe how waves crash against cliffs to create features like headlands. Start your paragraph with: Over time, the energy of the waves causes erosion, which is the process where... (3 marks)

3. Deposition: Explain what happens when the sea loses energy and drops sand or pebbles. Start your paragraph with: In more sheltered areas, deposition occurs when the water slows down and... (3 marks)

4. Human Impact: Briefly mention how people use the coast and why it needs protection. Start your paragraph with: Many people visit the coast for leisure, but human activities can affect the shoreline, so we must... (2 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise your findings. Start your paragraph with: In conclusion, the coast is a fascinating place because it is a perfect example of how nature works to... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a coastal manager. Write a short paragraph explaining one method used to prevent erosion, such as a sea wall or groynes, and explain why it is important for the local community.