



Geography – Coasts



Caves occur when waves force their way into cracks in the cliff face. Water contains sand and other materials that grind away the rock until the cracks become a cave. This is hydraulic action.



What are coasts?
Coasts are where the land meets the ocean. This can take different forms such as beach (sand, shingle, pebble) and cliffs.



Key Vocabulary

Beach	A low-lying area where the land meets the sea, made up of fine, loose sediment.
Cliff	A high-altitude area where the land meets the sea, made of hard rock.
Erosion	The process where material is removed from the land and moved along the coast in the waves.
Bay	An area of sea protruding into the land.
Headland	An area of land protruding into the sea.
Longshore drift	The process through which sediment is moved across a beach.
Hydraulic action	The weight of a wave crashing on a cliff face, pushing the air in cracks and caves, under pressure, to force open the crack/cave.
Ocean plastic	Plastic which has been littered and pollutes the seas and coasts.
Abrasion	This is where pebbles and sand in the waves blast the cliff face like sandpaper, wearing it down.
Solution	Some types of rock, such as chalk and limestone can be slowly dissolved by sea water.