



On the Edge



Key Terms

- The **coast** is where the land meets the sea.
- **Waves** are movements of water in the ocean, seas, or lakes that go up and down.
- **Swash** is the movement of water up the beach after a wave breaks.
- **Backwash** is the movement of water back down the beach after the swash.
- **Constructive waves** are gentle waves that help build up beaches.
- **Destructive waves** are stronger, more powerful waves that wear away the beach.
- **Transportation** is when the sea moves materials, like sand, pebbles, and rocks, from one place to another.
- **Deposition** is when the sea drops the materials it has been carrying, like sand, pebbles, and rocks, onto the beach or along the coast.
- **Longshore drift** is the process where the sea moves sand, pebbles, and other materials along the coast.
- A **spit** is a narrow strip of sand or pebbles that sticks out from the coast into the sea.
- A **bar** is a ridge of sand or pebbles that forms across the entrance to a bay or a river mouth.
- A **tombolo** is a strip of sand or pebbles that connects an island to the mainland or to another island.

Coastal Environments

- It can have beaches, cliffs, and rocky areas.
- Coasts are important for people, animals, and plants.
- Some people live by the coast, while others visit for holidays.
- The coast is always changing because of the sea and weather.



Beach



Cliffs



Rocky Areas

Coastal Activities and People

Activities

- Build a sandcastle.
- Go rock pooling.
- Surf or paddleboard.
- Beachcombing.
- Fishing.



People

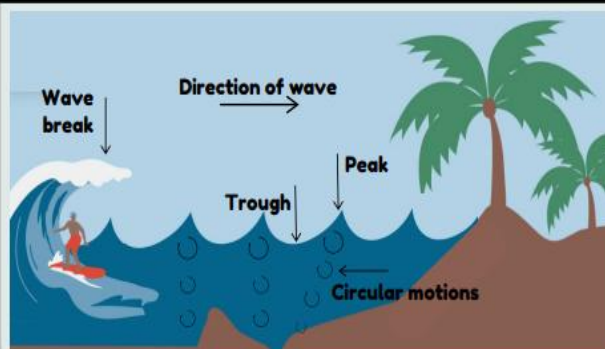
- Lifeguard.
- Photographer.
- Dog Walker.
- Marine Biologist.
- Beach Vendor.



Popular Beaches



How Waves Work



Swash and Backwash



Constructive and Destructive Waves

Constructive waves are gentle, **low-energy waves** that build up beaches by depositing sand and pebbles. They have a strong swash (water moving up the beach) and a weak backwash (water returning to the sea), meaning more material is added than taken away. In contrast, **destructive waves** are powerful and **high-energy**, eroding coastlines. They have a weak swash but a strong backwash, dragging sand and pebbles back into the sea. Destructive waves are more common during storms, while constructive waves shape beaches in calmer conditions.



Constructive - low energy



Destructive - high energy

Transportation and Deposition

Transportation



Deposition



Transportation is when waves move sand, pebbles, and rocks along the coast. The material is carried by the water, sometimes rolling along the seabed or being lifted by waves.

Deposition happens when waves drop the sand and pebbles they were carrying. This usually occurs when the waves lose energy, like in calm conditions, helping to build up beaches and landforms like spits.