



Coast

Recommended year group: Year 8

Subject focus: Geography, Personal Development

Driving Question

What is the impact of coastal change?

Introduction

This theme explores how coastlines are shaped, used and understood. Students investigate the physical processes that continually change the coast, including waves, tides, erosion and deposition. They then examine how people respond to these changes through coastal management and tourism, weighing the benefits and challenges of human activity.

The theme also considers the coast as a place of culture and creativity, exploring how artists and writers, such as John Cooper Clarke, have celebrated the coastline as part of national identity. Overall, the theme shows that coastlines are dynamic systems where natural forces, human decisions and cultural meaning are closely connected.



Assessment outcomes

Lesson 3 - How coastal change impacts humans

SE.GE.02 Demonstrate understanding of human geography concepts and their interrelationships with places, environments and processes

Lesson 7 – A Nation’s Ode to the Coast

CL.WP.02 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organisation, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience (Voice)

Lesson 9 - Weston-Super-Mare fieldwork, the enquiry and the plan

PL.IE.02 Investigate problems providing conclusions, using reasoned arguments and evidence

Read: *What I Was* by Meg Rossoff – Two boys from very different backgrounds meet on a beach, and strike up an unlikely friendship, eventually leading to devastating scandal.

Look: *Blue Planet BBC Episode 8* David Attenborough narrates a natural history of the oceans, examining the use animals from in and around the sea make of the constantly changing areas where land meets water.

Listen: **‘Wellerman’ by Nathan Evans** Nathan Evans first gained fame in 2020 by posting videos of himself singing sea shanties on social media service TikTok. In 2021, he released a cover of the folk song ‘Wellerman’.

Key vocabulary

Abrasion, Analysis, Arch, Attrition, Backwash, Bar, Bay, Beach nourishment, Butler Model, Coast, Coastal management, Coastal zone, Conclusion, Consistency, Constructive waves, Contrast, Cost-benefit analysis, Data analysis, Data collection, Data presentation, Dependent variable, Deposition, Destructive waves, Enquiry question, Erosion, Evaluation, Fieldwork, Geology, Gravitational pull, Hard engineering, Headland, Hydraulic action, Hypothesis, Independent variable, Land use, Landforms, Longshore drift, Mark making, Methodology, Overtourism, Primary data, Qualitative data, Quantitative data, Reliability, Rejuvenation, Resistance, Sampling strategy, Soft engineering, Stagnation, Stack, Stump, Sustainability, Swash, Tidal range, Tide, Tone, Tourism, Transportation, Wave-cut platform

Extended learning opportunities

Students could use these ideas to explore different features of the theme.

Careers

These ideas can be used alongside the lessons in order to discover career pathways associated with key elements of learning from this theme:

Explore careers that protect the environment
[environment](#) | [Search](#) | [National Careers Service](#)

Places to visit

This section offers a selection of virtual trips which support knowledge of key areas and attractions from the lessons:

[Giant's Causeway virtual tours](#) | [National Trust](#)
[Welcome to the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site](#)



People, Place and Time

The 'People, Place and Time' resources provide support to key knowledge throughout the theme. More specifically:

- **People:** famous individuals who have connections to the sea and coastal areas
- **Place:** places in the world where the coast is remarkable

Family learning opportunities

Family Learning Opportunities

Coastline on Your Doorstep

Visit a local riverfront or canal and observe how people use the area. Look for signs of coastal management such as sea walls, groynes, steps, ramps or warning signs. Discuss why these features are needed and who they are designed to protect.

Creative Coast

Create something inspired by the coast at home – a short poem, a piece of artwork, a photograph, or a short descriptive paragraph. Encourage discussion about why the coast is meaningful to people and how it can inspire creativity, linking to work studied in *Nation's Ode to the Coast*.

Ideas for discussion at home:

- Why do people choose to live and holiday near the coast even though it can be risky?
- Should money always be spent protecting coastlines, or should some areas be left to change naturally?
- How do tourists help coastal towns, and how might they cause problems as well?
- Why do you think the coast is such an important part of British identity and culture?

Linked Reading

The Boy at the Back of the Class – A powerful story of belonging and empathy, linked to journeys and place.

The Lightkeepers – A mystery set on a lighthouse, exploring isolation and the power of the sea.

Where the World Turns Wild – A dystopian novel centred on reclaimed coastal landscapes.

Kensuke's Kingdom – A survival story set on a remote island, exploring human-nature relationships.

The Whale Rider – A story of culture, tradition and connection to the ocean.

Song of the Sea – A lyrical tale rooted in coastal folklore and identity.

The Deep – A tense survival story set on the Atlantic coast.

Sky Song – Journey along wild landscapes, including rugged coastlines.

The Island at the End of Everything – A moving story about isolation and resilience.

Stig of the Dump – Children's adventure linking landscape, imagination and place.

The Lightkeepers – Abi Elphinstone

A gripping adventure set around a lighthouse, exploring isolation, survival and the power of the sea.

Boy Everywhere – A.M. Dassu

A powerful story of displacement and resilience, including dangerous journeys by sea, linking to coastal borders and human impact.

The Storm Keeper's Island – Catherine Doyle

A myth-inspired island adventure that explores humans, nature and the sea as a living, powerful force.

Lessons

Lesson title	Subject	Essential knowledge/concepts	Competencies	National curriculum coverage
Lesson 1: An introduction to coasts	Geography	Describe what coasts are and what the coastal zone is. Explain how waves are formed and how waves impact the coast. Compare two coastal locations.	SE.GE.01: Demonstrate knowledge of locations, places, environments and different scales.	Geography: Understand, through the use of detailed place-based exemplars at a variety of scales, the key processes in physical geography relating to: geological timescales and plate tectonics; rocks, weathering and soils; weather and climate, including the change in climate from the Ice Age to the present; and glaciation, hydrology and coasts.
Lesson 2: How do coasts change naturally?	Geography	Describe natural changes in a coastline. Explain the processes and sub-processes that occur on a coastline. Locate and compare erosional and depositional landforms in the UK.	SE.GE.03: Demonstrate understanding of physical geography concepts and their interrelationships with places, environments and processes.	Geography: Develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places – both terrestrial and marine – including their defining physical and human characteristics and how these provide a geographical context for understanding the actions of processes.
Lesson 3: How coastal change impacts humans	Geography	Describe the different coastal management methods. Explain why different methods are used and different locations in the UK. Analyse the impact of coastal management.	SE.GE.02: Demonstrate understanding of human geography concepts and their interrelationships with places, environments and processes.	Geography: Develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places – both terrestrial and marine – including their defining physical and human characteristics and how these provide a geographical context for understanding the actions of processes.
Lesson 4: How does tourism	Geography	Describe the stages of the Butler Model.	SE.GE.01: Demonstrate knowledge of locations, places,	Geography: Develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places – both terrestrial and marine – including their defining physical and human characteristics and how these provide a

impact the coast?		Explain issues that can impact tourism. Compare coastal tourism in different countries.	environments and different scales.	geographical context for understanding the actions of processes.
Lesson 5: Planning a trip to Weston Super-Mare	English	Plan a journey using online maps. Research and select suitable visitor attractions. Create a budgeted itinerary for a day trip.	PD.BF.01: Business and enterprise skills.	English: Writing for a wide range of purposes and audiences, including: A range of other narrative and non-narrative texts, including arguments, and personal and formal letters.
Lesson 6: How do coasts inspire us?	Art	Describe artistic techniques inspired by coastal landscapes. Recreate artistic styles using mark making for effect. Use tone, texture and contrast to create meaning.	C.RS.01: Identify and explore relevant contextual Artist research and I am able to express my thoughts and ideas through written analysis. C.RS.02: Respond to contextual research within a practical context; analysing, recording and evaluating your findings.	Art: produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences. Become proficient in drawing, painting, sculpture and other art, craft and design techniques. Know about great artists, craft makers and designers, and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms.
Lesson 7: Big Write: 'The Nation's Ode to the Coast'	English	Identify linguistic devices within a professional text. Select key, relevant information needed to interpret meaning. Apply knowledge of linguistic devices to your own writing.	CL.WP.02: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organisation, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience (Voice).	English: Write accurately, fluently, effectively and at length for pleasure and information through: writing for a wide range of purposes and audiences.
Lesson 8: Careers that	Personal Development	Identify how different jobs may require similar skill sets.	PD.CA.02: Experiencing the world of work.	Gatsby Benchmark 4: Linking curriculum learning to careers.

protect the environment		Describe how these skills can be used in more than one profession.		
FIELDWORK – PREPARATION AND TRIP TO WESTON SUPER MARE	Geography	Define geography fieldwork and sequence the enquiry stages. Identify and classify variables in a geographical enquiry question. Select and justify hypotheses linked to coastal management and landforms. Apply a clear methodology to collect data consistently and safely.	PL.IE.02 – Investigate problems by providing conclusions using reasoned arguments and evidence.	Geography: “Pupils should develop greater competence in using geographical knowledge, approaches and concepts and geographical skills in analysing and interpreting different data sources.” “Pupils should use fieldwork in contrasting locations to collect, analyse and draw conclusions from geographical data, using multiple sources of increasingly complex information.” “Pupils should be taught to interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, graphs, and geographical information systems (GIS), and communicate geographical information in a variety of ways.”