

## Unit 23: Investigating coasts



# Learnanywhere

What is a coast? Which coastal areas have we visited?

The coast is the term for where the land meets the sea.

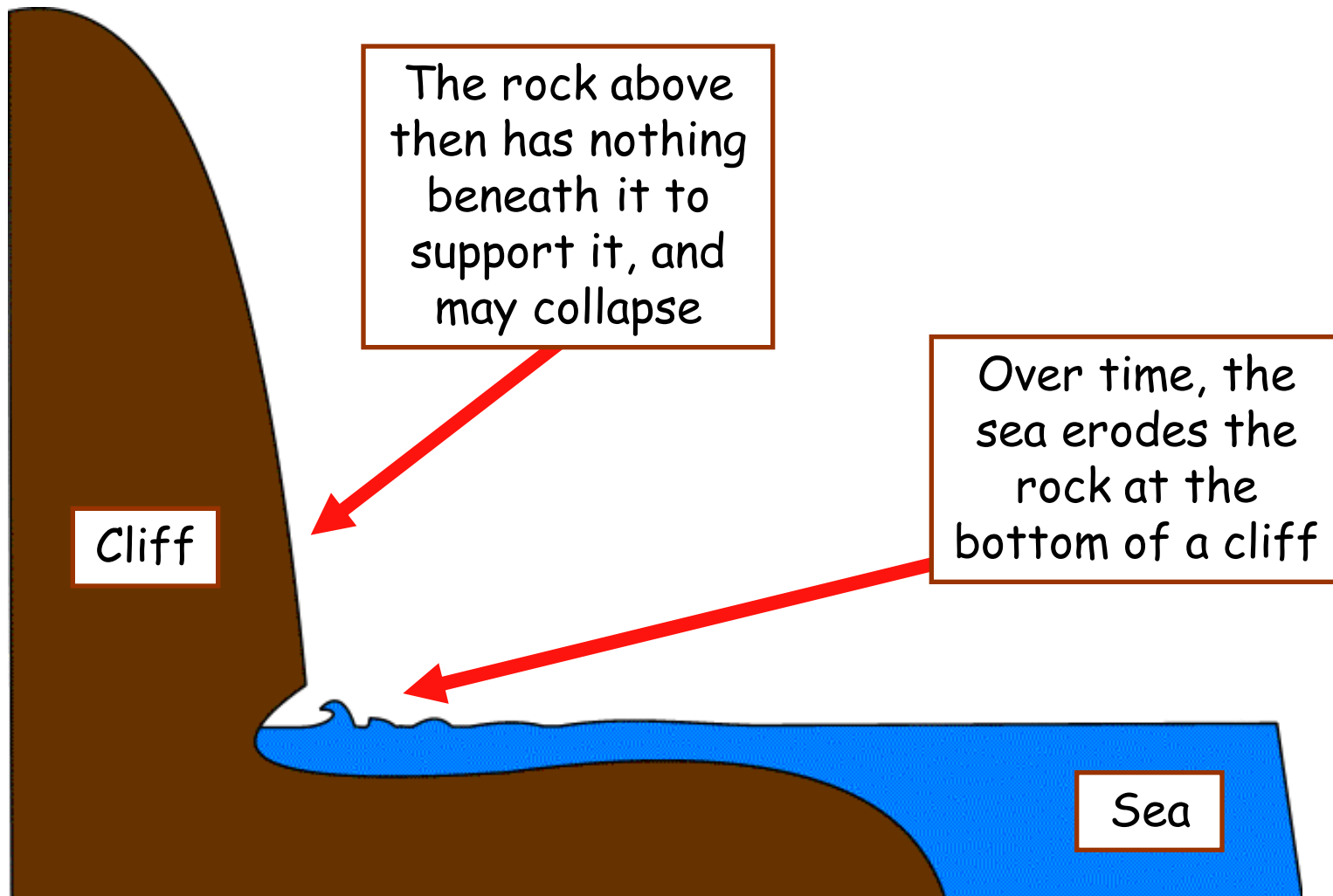
Since Britain is an island, it has a coastline all the way round.

**Have you visited any places on the British coast?**

**Do you know where they are on the map?**



How do waves shape coastal environments?

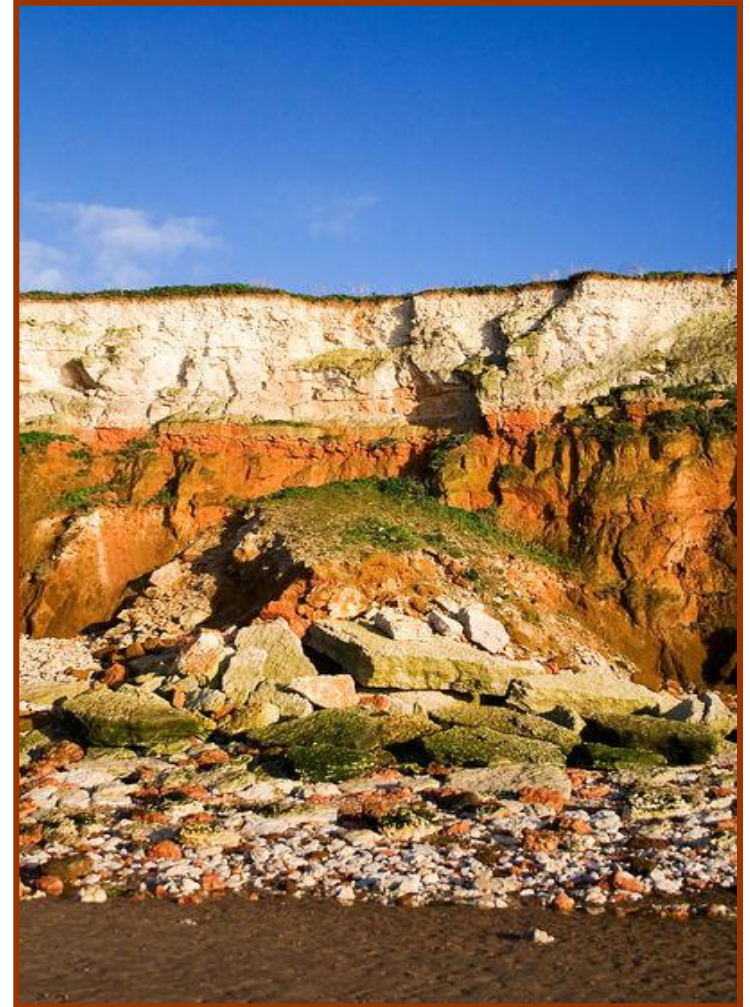


How do waves shape coastal environments?

If there is a rock collapse, the result is something like this picture:

Notice that the bottom part of the cliff has been smashed into small bits by the weight of the rock falling onto it.

**What do you think might happen to these small bits of rock at the bottom of the cliff?**



How do waves shape coastal environments?

The houses may be in danger of collapsing into the sea

The sea has eroded the land, leaving a huge gap

A barrier has been put up to try to protect the coast from further erosion

How can human activity shape coastal environments?



Human activity can also cause damage to the coastal environment.

If a building is too close to the edge of a cliff, the weight of it might be too much for the weak rock.



The pictures show Holbeck Hall, in Scarborough.

It collapsed into the sea in 1993 after the cliff beneath it crumbled away.

## What is a beach?

In some parts of the coast, instead of erosion, there is deposition.

This means that the sea washes up sand and stones onto the coast, rather than washing land away.

This produces beaches.

Beaches are usually made up of sand or shingle (pebbles).

**Have you been to a sand or shingle beach?**



## Why do we need to manage the coast?

To prevent erosion of the coastline, many coastal areas have protective measures in place.

The top picture is a groyne. These are built on beaches to limit the amount of damage from water flowing along the beach.

The bottom picture shows a sea wall. These protect the coast against waves which might either flood nearby buildings or damage the coastline.

