Geography – Coasts

St Mary's C of E Primary School and Nursery

'Be the BEST you can be'

Key Vocabulary:

Abrasion	Waves throwing pebbles at cliffs.
Arch	A coastal feature formed when waves erode through a headland.
Attrition	Pebbles hitting each other in the waves.
Bay	A wide, curved inlet of a sea or lake.
Beach	An area of sand or pebbles along the coast.
Cave	A hollow in a cliff formed by wave action enlarging a crack in the cliff.
Cliff	A steep rocky slope that may overlook the sea.
Coastline	Is where the land meets the sea.
Corrosion	Dissolving of rock by acid in water.
Current	The flow of water in a certain direction.
Groyne	A wall built into the sea from the seashore to create a beach by trapping sand carried by longshore drift.
Headland	A part of the coastline that juts out into the sea and usually ends in a cliff.
Hydraulic action	Water trapping air in cracks and caves and the force of the water itself against the cliffs.
Landslide	The downward sliding of a large mass of earth and rock.
Longshore drift	The process whereby beach material is gradually shifted along a beach by waves meeting the shore at an oblique angle.

Did you know?

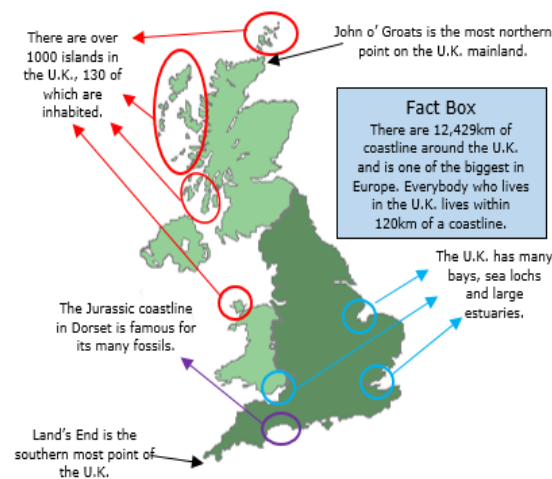The UK is surrounded by the North Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea, the Irish Sea and the English Channel.

Sea Defences:

- **Groynes** – **interrupt** wave action and **protect** the beach from being washed away by longshore drift.

- **Sea Walls** – **protect** the coastline from **flooding and erosion.** Sometimes made of rock and steel.

There are over 1000 islands in the U.K., 130 of which are inhabited.

John o' Groats is the most northern point on the U.K. mainland.

Fact Box
There are 12,429km of coastline around the U.K. and is one of the biggest in Europe. Everybody who lives in the U.K. lives within 120km of a coastline.

The U.K. has many bays, sea lochs and large estuaries.

The Jurassic coastline in Dorset is famous for its many fossils.

Land's End is the southern most point of the U.K.

Key Vocabulary:

Sea defences	Features added to a coast to protect it from erosion and flooding.
Spit	A long narrow accumulation of sand and shingle that grows out from the coastline.
Stack	A long narrow accumulation of sand and shingle that grows out from the coastline.
Stump	A short stack formed after erosion shortens the stack.
Undercutting	To create an overhang by cutting material away from a cliff.
Waves	Formed when wind blows over the sea.

Landslip

Wave-cut notch

Shore platform

Cliff

Beach

Shoreface   Shore