

Coastline

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom, or UK, is a union of four countries. These are England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The UK is surrounded by four seas and oceans. These are the Atlantic Ocean, English Channel, Irish Sea and North Sea.



Coastal features

There are many features of the UK coastline.

Physical features

Physical features are naturally formed. Humans haven't made them. Rain, wind and the sea can change physical features over time.



Human features

Human features are those that have been made by humans. There are many human features on the coastline such as shops, roads and piers.



Erosion

Erosion is a natural process where materials, such as rock, sand and soil, are moved from one place to another. As waves crash against the coastline, they break off, or erode, tiny pieces of rock. Over time the coastline is worn away.

Sea defences, such as sea walls and lines of large rocks, called rip-rap, are put at the bottom of cliffs to stop erosion.

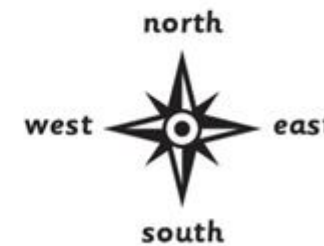


Maps

Maps are used to help people find their way from one place to another or find out where different places are. Physical and human features are marked on a map with symbols.



People will often use a compass to tell them which direction they are travelling. The main points on a compass are north, south, east and west.



Whitby

Whitby is a busy tourist town on the coast of North Yorkshire, England. It is surrounded by the beautiful countryside of the North Yorkshire Moors. The River Esk runs through Whitby, splitting the town into two parts. The old town is on the east bank of the river and is full of small shops and narrow, cobbled streets. The new town is on the west bank of the river. The new town has bigger, more modern shops and a large park and museum.



Glossary

coastline	The place where the land meets the sea or ocean.
erosion	Erosion is a natural process where materials are worn away over time.
rip-rap	Large rocks put at the bottom of cliffs to stop erosion.
physical feature	A feature formed naturally such as caves, arches, stacks, bays, beaches and cliffs.
Human feature	A feature made by humans such as shops, cafes, bridges and castles.
Key	A key is the information needed to read a map.
Symbol	A symbol is a picture or icon used to show a geographical feature.

