

# 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.

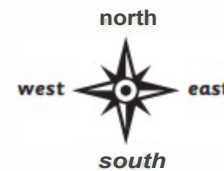


## Maps

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.



## Dangers at the coast

The coastline can be a dangerous place. It is important to stay safe and know what to do in an emergency.



Look for warning signs, follow advice and do not take risks.



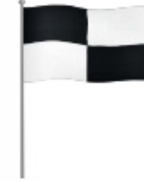
Never go near water alone. Make sure an adult is with you.



Do not use inflatable toys or airbeds in the sea when a wind sock is blowing.



Red and yellow flags mean it is safe to swim.



Black and white flags mean it is safe for surfing, not for swimming.



Red flags mean danger. It is not safe to swim.



Check the weather forecast for bad weather.



Use safety equipment, such as a life jacket.



Call 999 in an emergency. Ask for the coastguard and they will call for the lifeboat.