



Geography – Rivers and Coasts



What are coasts?

Coasts are where the land meets the ocean. This can take different forms such as beach (sand, shingle, pebble) and cliffs.

Rivers are formed when water from rain or melting snow on high ground (mountains) trickles down, joining together to form small streams. These streams flow downhill, getting larger and faster, carving paths in the earth, and combining with other streams until they become wide rivers that flow into lakes or the sea.



Key Vocabulary

Beach	A low-lying area where the land meets the sea, made up of fine, loose sediment.
Cliff	A high-altitude area where the land meets the sea, made of hard rock.
Bay	An area of sea protruding into the land.
Headland	An area of land protruding into the sea.
Upper Course	The upper course is the very beginning of a river, usually found high up in mountains or hills, near its source. It is steep, narrow and shallow, with fast-flowing water that cuts deep V-shaped valleys into the landscape.
Middle Course	The wider, deeper and flatter middle section.
Lower Course	The very last part of a river's journey, just before it flows into the sea, an ocean, large lake or another river.
Flow	The flow of a river is the movement of water from a high place to a low place.
Geographer	A scientist who studies the Earth, including its landscapes, oceans, and environments, as well as how people live, work, and interact with the planet.
Fieldwork	Observing, measuring, and recording information about the natural and human environment.