

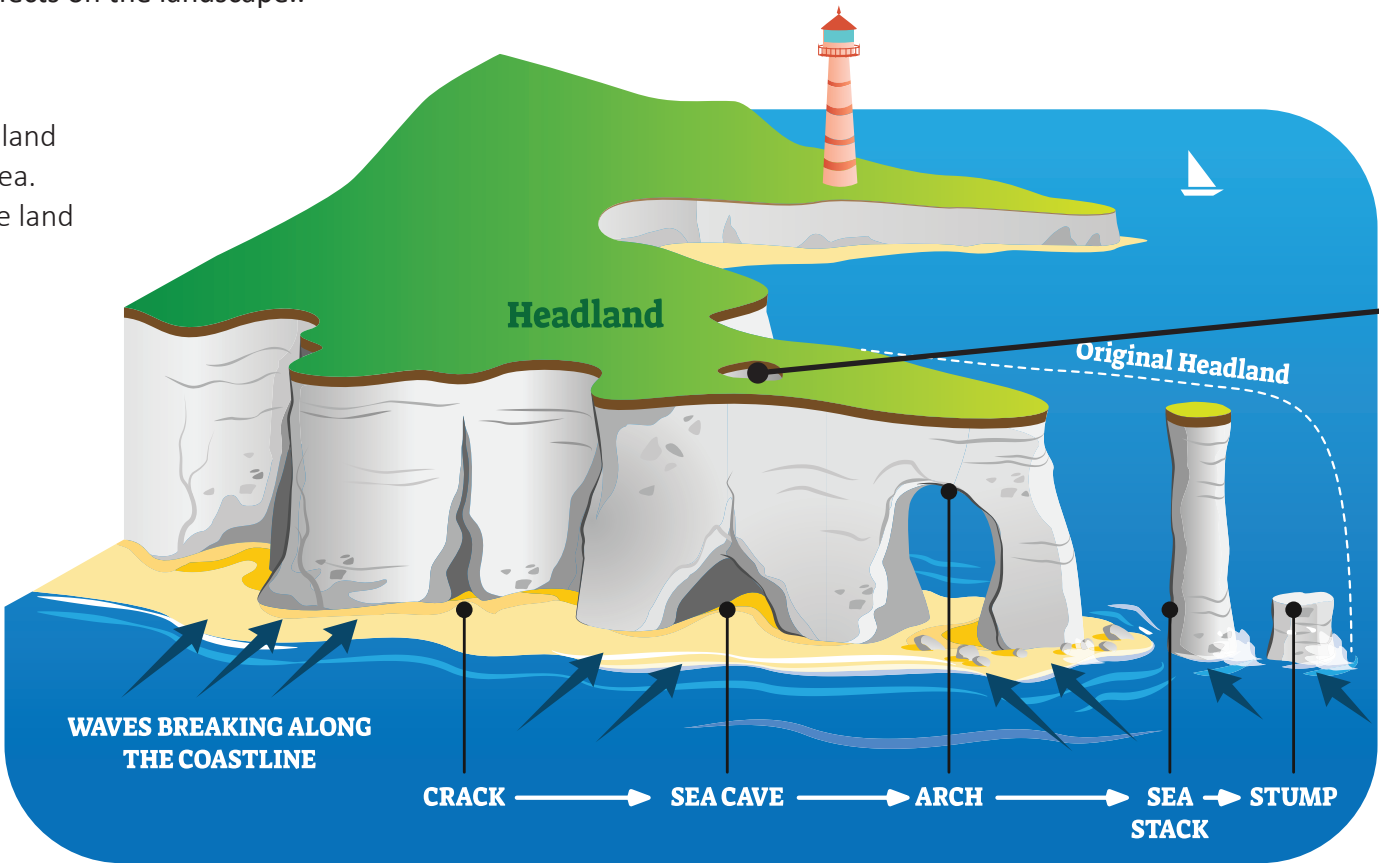
Erosion is a word used when something is worn away over time. This happens a lot on the **coastline**. Crashing waves and strong winds wear away the rock over many years. This process creates lots of dramatic scenery but can have many negative effects on the landscape..

Headland

The **headland** is a piece of land that projects out into the sea. These are formed when the land around them is eroded.

Crashing Waves

Even small waves will slowly erode the soft rocks. These will break down into small stones and sand. Anything built at the top of the cliff will be in danger of falling into the sea eventually.



Blowholes

Caves sometimes erode upwards over time. This creates tunnels inside the rock that open at the surface. When large waves crash into the cave, it forces water out of the **blowhole**, like on the back of a whale.

Cracks and Caves

Cracks appear in the rocks as they wear away. If a crack widens it forms a **cave**. These provide shelter for lots of animals but can make the land above them unstable.

Arches and Stumps

Sometimes a cave will be eroded all the way through the headland. This creates an **arch**. If the top of the arch is worn away, the two sides form sea stacks or stumps.



VOCABULARY FOCUS

Match the word with the definition:

erosion		the place where a cave has eroded upwards to the surface
coastline		a piece of land that is left after the rest had eroded
headland		the process of wearing away parts of the landscape
cave		this is formed when a cave is eroded even further
arch		the land along the coast
blowhole		a place where a crack has widened

VIPERS QUESTIONS

S

Explain the steps that happen to form a stump.

R

Which two things can cause coastal erosion according to this text?

I

Why is the blowhole called that?

P

Why are things built at the top of cliffs at risk? What do you think might happen?

R

Erosion happens very quickly. Do you agree with this statement or not? Explain why.