

abrade	the action of rock scraping against and wearing away other rock
coastal dunes	the deposits of wind-blown sand that accumulate behind a beach
coastal environment	an area extending as far inland as the salt water, sea spray and wind-blown sands reach, and into the ocean as far as waves and currents are able to move material on the sea bed
coastal resources	the natural and cultural resources of the coastal environment
coastline	the boundary between the land and sea; the landward limit is normally determined by the reach of storm waves

constructive waves

flat waves with low levels of energy that bring sediment from offshore stores onto the coastline

currents

the flow or movement of a large body of water in an ocean, caused mainly by prevailing winds, the earth's rotation and the distribution of land masses

destructive waves

steep waves with high levels of energy that cause coastal landforms to be eroded

emergence

the upward movement of land masses created by the melting of ice caps during the last Ice Age

flow-through

the portion of rainfall that percolates (infiltrates) rock structures and flows through it via cracks in the rock structure

foredune

the coastal dune or lines of dunes nearest the sea that are usually eroded by storm waves and later rebuilt by further wind deposits of sand

foreshore

the land lying between the high-water mark and the low-water mark; the area covered and uncovered by the ebb and flow of the tide

groyne

a rock or concrete wall built at right angles to the beach to obstruct the drift of sediment or to minimise beach erosion

longshore drift

the movement of sediments by currents running parallel to a beach

runoff

the portion of rainfall that runs off as overland flow

sea wall

a rock or concrete structure commonly built at the foot of the foredune; they are designed to protect property from coastal erosion

sediment

sand and small rock particles or silt created by the erosion of rock structures along coasts or in inland areas

submergence

the creation of landforms by rising sea levels associated with the warming that occurred following the last Ice Age

swash

the upwards surge of water that moves up a beach slope when breakers crash onto the shore

swell

ocean waves that spread out from their area of origin

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tides

the rise and fall of the sea twice a day; associated primarily with the gravitational pull of the moon as it orbits the earth

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waves

a long body of water curling into an arched form and breaking on the shore; involves the transfer of energy from the wind to the surface of the body of water

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