Why Live Near the Coast?

Millions of people have made the decision to live near the coast.

Cities like New York, Sydney, Barcelona and Mumbai are right next to the sea.

What attracts people to live near the coast?

See if you can come up with five reasons in pairs...

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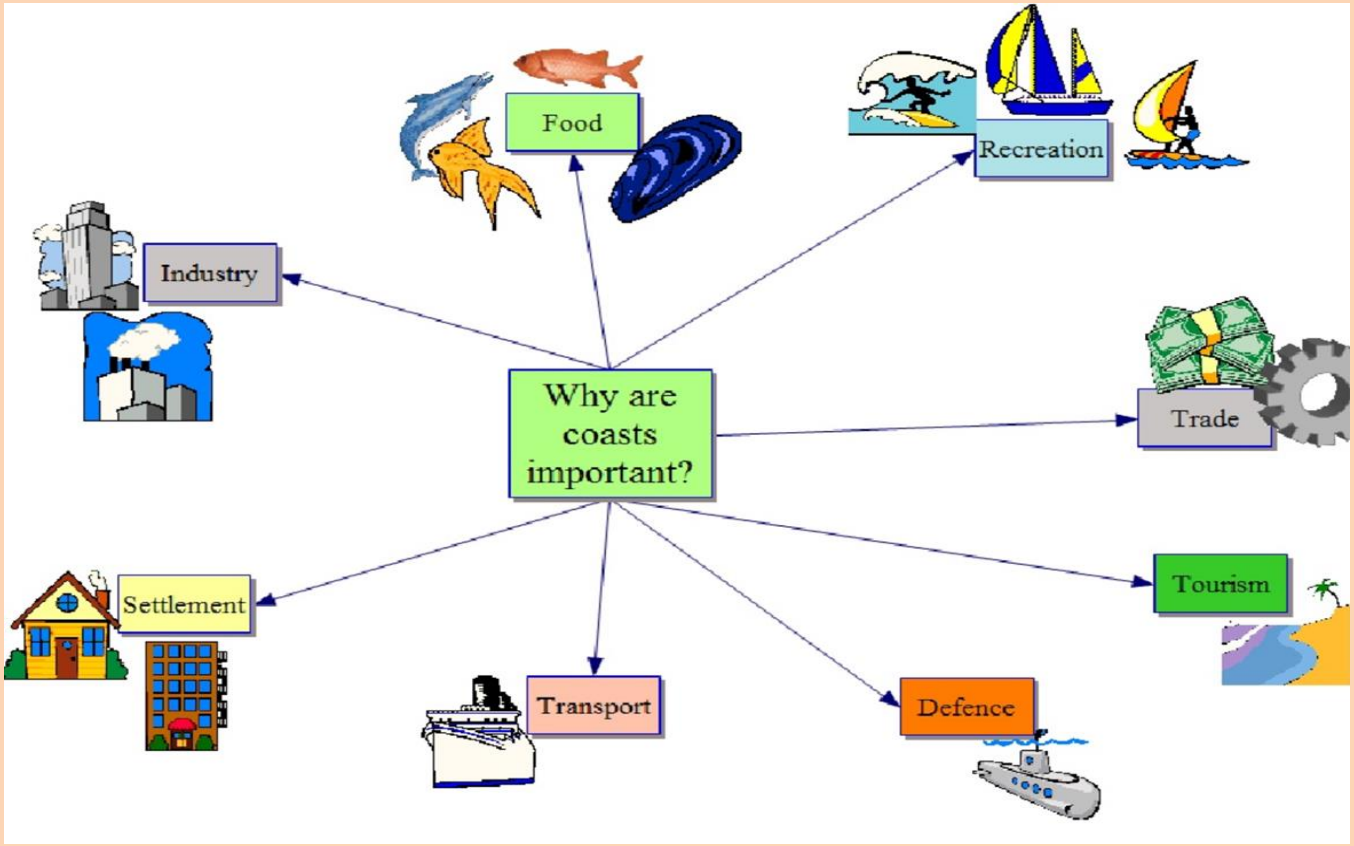
There are many ways humans use the coasts and it is vital in our lives. Can you think of any?



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As we read through the information, make notes of the different human activities.

You will explore:

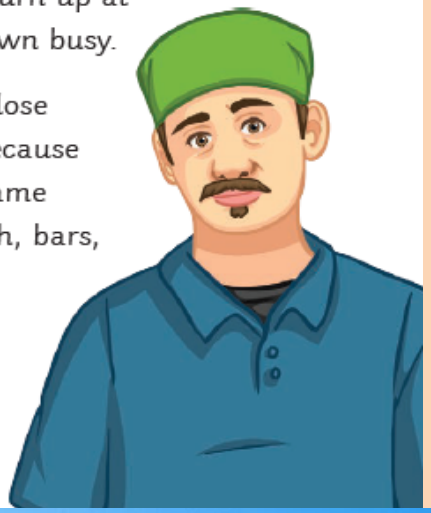
- Tourism in Blackpool
- Industry in Southampton
- Farming in East Yorkshire
- Living in Bridlington
- Transport in Dover

Tourism

Hello, my name is Dave. I own a fish and chip shop in Blackpool.

Blackpool is not a wealthy town. The average income here is only £19 500. That's a lot lower than the national average. Nearly 10% of the population here are unemployed. Many cannot afford to heat their homes properly.

There are fewer visitors now than there used to be, but visits are going up again. Most of them are day-trippers and don't stay in hotels. Lots of them bring picnics so they won't turn up at my chippy. But plenty of them do come with lots of cash, and they keep this town busy.



Many jobs here depend on tourism and if people stopped coming they would lose those jobs and have less money. But, hopefully, they will keep coming back because there is lots to do here! We have the Blackpool Tower, a Sea Life Centre, Madame Tussaud's, the Illuminations, amusement arcades, theatres, the Pleasure Beach, bars, clubs... the list goes on and on! It's a really cool place to visit!

When cheap flights were first introduced, people preferred to go to warmer places than Blackpool. Numbers of visitors fell and a lot of businesses here closed. That caused a lot of problems, like crime. But the council have spent a lot of money on making the place nicer, and people have started to come back.

Industry

Hi there! I'm Bill and I work at the Fawley Oil Refinery. It's located at the coast so ships can deliver the oil straight to us. It's our job to turn it into other things, like petrol.

Ever wondered where petrol comes from? It's a complicated process. The oil arrives here and we turn it into petrol that can go into your cars. Without us, the nation would grind to a halt.

This refinery at Fawley is massive. We can deal with 16 million tonnes of oil every year. Each day, we produce 50 million litres of petrol, diesel and jet fuel. All other industries rely on us!

This oil refinery is also crucial for the local economy. There are 2300 well paid jobs at this plant and some families have had people working here for generations. There are other businesses that rely on us. Some local shops are only open because the workers here buy things from them.

Can you imagine what would happen if we were flooded by the sea? As well as the impact on business around the world and the loss of jobs, with all that oil there would be an environmental disaster.

Fawley Refineries, Southampton

Agriculture

Welcome to my farm! It's quite a big one. Our fields stretch for over half a mile along this part of the coast.

Farming by the coast is really important because there are so many farms that overlook the sea. Ours is a cattle farm, but other coastal farms keep sheep, produce milk and grow crops.

Where I live, in Holderness, the cliffs are made of soft rock. The sea erodes them away. Every year, one metre of farm disappears into the sea.

You may not think that a metre is all that much - it's less than the length of your school desk. But one metre a year means that five metres are lost over five years. Ten metres are lost over ten years. It all adds up.

I'm worried about what this farm will be like in 30 years' time. The farm house is only 30 metres from the sea at the moment. If that disappears into the sea, there will be no more food produced here.

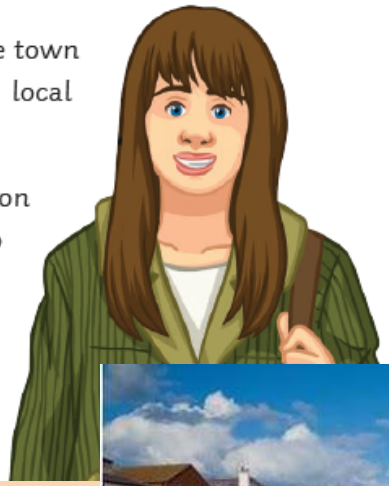
I've asked for help several times because it would be good to have some sea defences to protect my farm. But it doesn't seem to be a priority for the government.

Settlements

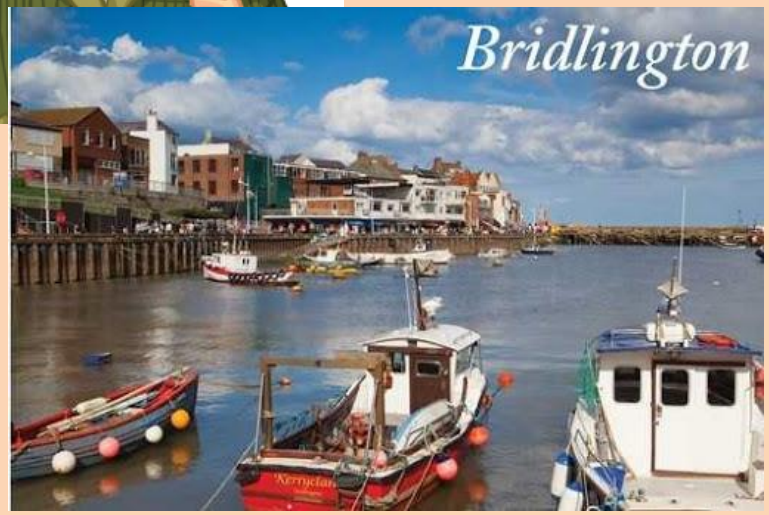
Hello, I'm Jenny and I live in Bridlington. I've lived here all my life, and I love being by the sea. Throughout Britain, there are millions of people who live near the sea. Bridlington, on Yorkshire's east coast, is just one of the towns. It's not the biggest one, but there are still over 35 000 people living here. The coastal population of Britain is on the increase – in Bridlington, for example, the population in the 1960s was around 26 000 and in 2001 it was around 34 000.

Towns along the coast function just like any other town. They are thriving communities, full of homes, shops, banks, schools, hospitals, libraries and restaurants. People work here, providing goods and services to other residents and visitors. And people pay taxes here, that are then spent on roads, street lighting, health, education and parks.

My children love it here, too. They can go for walks on the beach, but the town also has plenty of facilities. They go swimming at weekends, attend a local youth group and they really like going to the cinema.



This is why sea defences are important. We have a sea wall at Bridlington and recently over £1.3million was spent on bringing in huge rocks to help it reduce the energy of the waves. Some people thought it was a waste of money, but you've just got to think about all the facilities that are behind that sea wall. If the wall saves just a few of the properties, it is worth the money.



Transport

If any of you have been on holiday to France, you may have passed through here. This is the Port of Dover. We help lorries and cars head off to Europe, and then come back.

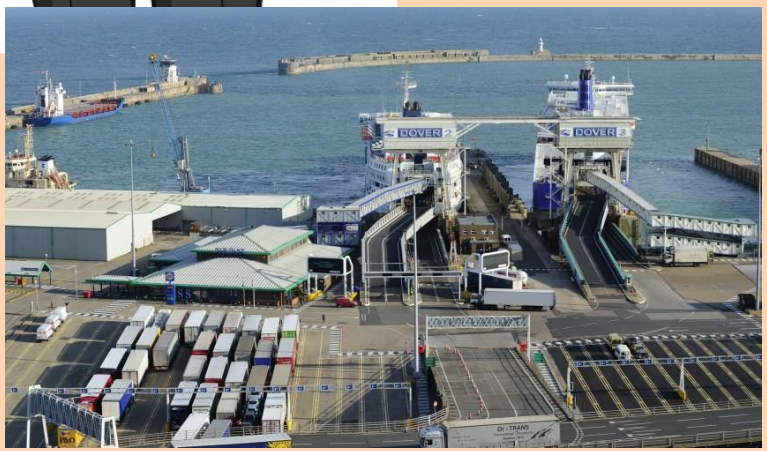
The Port of Dover is in the south east of England. From here, it's only 21 miles to France. On a clear day, you can actually see it.

Some of the stuff you buy might also have come through here.

Every year, our ferries carry:

- 16 million travellers;
- 2.8 million cars;
- 2.1 million HGVs.

There are over 50 ferries sailing from here every single day.

Lots of businesses depend on us for transporting their goods and many people use us when they go on holiday. And there are a lot of jobs here for people in Dover.

The important thing to remember is that Dover is just one of many ports in the UK!