



read

Coastal Landscapes

Erosional Landforms

quiz



The Big Picture

physical processes

coastal landforms*

Coastal
Landscapes

coastal management

case study



Key Terms



Arch – A wave eroded passage through a headland.



Bay – A broad inlet of the sea where the land curves inwards.



Cave – A large hole in a cliff caused by waves enlarging cracks.



Discordant Coastline – Alternative bands of rock along the coastline.



Headland – Resistant rock that juts out into the sea.



Stack – A column of rock, often the remains of an arch.



Wave-cut Notch – A dent in the cliff usually at the level of high tide.



Wave-cut Platform – A wide, gently sloping surface found at the base of a cliff, extending to the sea.



Headlands and Bays

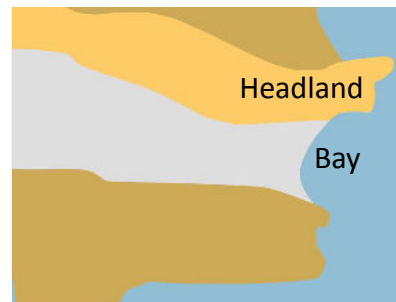
Bagshot beds (soft)

Chalk (hard)

Clay (soft)

Limestone (hard)

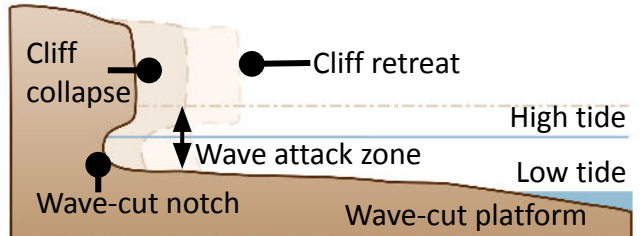
Headlands and bays are characteristic features of a discordant coastline where rocks of different hardness are exposed at the coast.



As weaker rock is eroded faster bays form, leaving more resistant headlands jutting out into the sea.



Wave-cut Platform



Caves, Arches and Stacks

Cracks enlarged by hydraulic action to form a cave.

Cave enlarged by hydraulic action and abrasion.

Arch forms when cave erodes through headland.

Roof of arch weakened by weathering and collapses leaving a stack.

Stump formed when stack collapses due to wave-cut notch.

