

ERODE YOUR OWN COAST!

We've explored coastal erosion in this video and presentation so let's erode our own coast now! This can be a group table activity.

You will need:

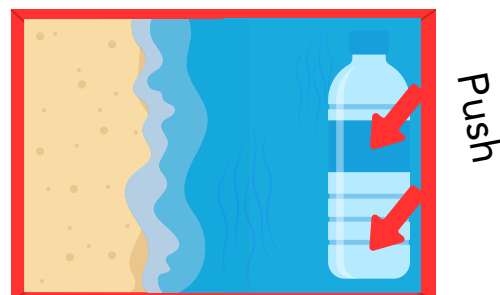
- Tray
- Sand
- Water
- Plastic drinks bottle (must fit inside tray)

- Step 1: Fill 1/3 of your tray to the top with sand, carving out headlands and bays at the edge of the sand...



- Step 2: Fill the remaining side of the tray with water, half way to the top, do this slowly and gently.

- Step 3: Place a bottle lengthways in the water, and slowly push it up and down, creating waves, watch as the sand erodes into the water, mimicking a real coast!



Tip: Try adding pebbles to the water edge and see what happens!

Top Tip!

When shaping your sand to begin with, add a little water to make it easier to shape, then use your finger to carve out the shape of a coastline.

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Demonstration Explained: As the waves lap against the sand, small pieces of the sand are washed away each time. This is what happens to our cliffs and beaches as well. On a cliff face, as waves push water into small cracks, the force of the water pushing the air already inside the crack, forces the rock to split further apart, breaking off pieces of the rock as it does so.

Whilst this may only happen on a small scale, erosion is a never ending process, and so over time, the cliffs wear away further and further back. The rock that is washed away is broken into smaller and smaller parts over time, and ends up as part of the surrounding beaches or seabed!

The sand you are eroding with your waves here is therefore a great representation of how our coasts are eroded over time!

