

Investigating the Coast

Investigating Our Local Area

Q 1 “What is East Wear Bay like today? What happens there?”

Activities

- Make a visit to the East Cliff and look for different things happening there today. Make a record of ways the land is used by listing and/or take some photos. Talk about what is happening to the rocks at the cliff edge.
- Or instead of a visit, you could look at some photographs of East Cliff today.
- In class you could make word cards for the different uses and discuss whether the uses/activities can be grouped in any way. Do children think they are for local people, visitors or both?
- Look at a large scale OS map of the area (Yr 6) to see which features are marked.

See Teacher notes below

Q 2 “Has East Wear Bay always been like this?”

Activities

- On a visit to East Cliff look for any buildings that look different to the modern ones and any clues for what happened there in the past. Make a note of these and/or take photos.
- In class find any photographs, drawings or information about East Cliff in the past.
- If any children have seen the archaeologists on East Cliff in 2010 or 2011, talk about why they are there, what they do and what they have found.

See Teacher notes below

Q 3 “What do we think this place will look like 100 years from now?”

Activities

- Do they think people will still be visiting East Wear Bay and living on the cliff top?
- Talk about what is happening to the cliffs (the **erosion**) and the buried ancient remains.
- Talk about/write about the work of archaeologists and their part in caring for the environment.
- Make an East Wear Bay ‘Then and Now’ display with annotated pictures.

See Teacher notes below

Investigating the Coast / Investigating Our Local Area: Teachers notes

Learning opportunities for Geography, History, Science, Literacy, Citizenship:

Historical knowledge and research skills; learning about erosion; land use past and present; how we care for the historic and natural environment; presentation skills.

You will find images at 'East Wear Bay, then and now'

(http://www.canterburytrust.co.uk/learning/resources/ark_teacher_pack/then-and-now/)

- **What is East Wear Bay like today? What happens there?**

Walking the dog (lots of dogs!)	Playing in kiddy area
Rambling	Outdoor bowling
Tennis	Pitch and putt
Coast watch station	Pavilion restaurant/pub
Fossil hunting on the beach	Private housing
Holiday accomodation (historic Martello Tower No. 2, local guest house, caravan park)	

East Cliff together with Warren Country Park is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest, of national importance for its wildlife and geology. *The cliff edge however is being worn away by erosion - partly through wave action and partly through land slippage, especially after heavy rain.*

All these things show what 'happens' at East Wear Bay now. There are probably more!

- **Has East Wear Bay always been like this?**

East Cliff has been a recreational spot in the recent past. In the 1920s people would 'promenade' along the cliff tops. They could go for a walk to meet friends. In the nineteenth century the 3 Martello Towers were built, apparently to protect Folkestone against threat of invasion by Napoleon. Since then, they have become unusual places to live in or visit. Archaeologists found an impressive villa from Roman times on the cliff top (information board at the site). They have also found pottery used by Iron Age people and ancient querns for grinding corn, carved from the Greensand stone. In 2010 and 2011 archaeologists will be at East Cliff again.

- **What do we think this place will look like 100 years from now?**

Hopefully East Cliff and East Wear Bay will continue to be enjoyed by local people and visitors for a long time. One thing is certain. The cliff face is gradually being eroded (an estimated 10 metres were lost between the 1924 and 1989 archaeological investigations) and chunks of the Roman villa have disappeared with the crumbling cliff edge. This is why archaeologists are on East Cliff in 2010 and 2011. Working with people in the local community, they are recovering valuable evidence before it is lost forever.