

Where does my garden go? (lower key stage 2)



What the photos say

These photographs of the East Coast of England, showing cliff erosion in Happisburgh (left) and landslip at Skipsea (right), illustrate the irresistible forces of the elements and how the world is changing, without us being able to stop it.

Lesson idea

Context: part of a science topic on rocks and soils, to emphasise the erosion process and put it into a real life context, thinking about the people who live in the cliff-top houses. This idea concentrates on the rocks and soils topic, but other photographs could illustrate different types of erosion.

Other resources

- Laminated photos for children to handle
- Additional photos showing examples of erosion
- Paper
- IWB pens

Suggested activity

This could be a plenary for the science lesson, or a separate lesson during the course of the topic.

Display the photo on the IWB and ask children, in pairs, to talk about what they could see and think of questions they might like to ask the people who live in the houses on the top of the cliff.

As a class, the children discuss what they think is happening in the photo. Ask them how they would feel if they lived on the cliff. If it doesn't emerge during the discussion, ensure that the children know that the clay is being eroded and the dangers this poses.

a different view

a manifesto from the Geographical Association



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Depending on the time available, you could develop these ideas:

- Role play in groups – the owners of the houses, a newspaper reporter or TV presenter, an estate agent, a geologist – all putting forward their own views.
- Children prepare questions in advance and hot seat the owners: How do they feel about living there? Has it always been like this? Do they want to move?
- Children imagine they are local residents: they write to the local council to ask what they can do about the receding coastline, and imagine what the council might reply (they can't stop nature).

Curriculum opportunities



Global dimension: Erosion takes place all over the world – children could find out which other countries suffer from coastal erosion. Is it always a bad thing? Sometimes, erosion poses no threat to people and it is erosion (although in a different form) that has produced this beautiful landscape of 'hoodoos' in Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah

Sustainable development: We cannot prevent erosion, but we may be able to slow it down or moderate its effects.

Personal, learning and thinking skills: Hot seating and role play.

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