

Revetments

You have been given revetments as your method of coastal protection. Your job is to record how revetments work and make a note of their advantages and disadvantages. You then need to prepare a short presentation that will inform the rest of the class how revetments work and give information about their strengths and weaknesses. Be as creative as you can during your presentation.

How do revetments work?

What are the strengths of revetments?

What are the weaknesses of revetments?

Draw a labelled diagram to show how revetments work.



Revetments

A hard engineering method of protecting the coastline, revetments are basically sloping structures that reduce the energy of the waves and reduce erosion behind them. They can be made out of wood, concrete or rocks – all these methods will need maintaining and repairing because the force of the sea causes cracks in the rock and concrete, while the water will lead to the eventual rotting of the wood.

The revetments are usually placed at the top of the beach or at the bottom of the cliff, reducing the wave's energy and reducing erosion where it is most needed.

The good thing about revetments is that they are easy to build and can be constructed in a short amount of time. They are much easier to install than a sea wall, for example. And they also cost less – a sea wall can cost £6000 a metre, whereas revetments are up to £4000 a metre.

Revetments can look a little bit ugly though at the top of a beach, and many people think they are intrusive. They can also restrict access to the beach, meaning you will have to go onto the beach in spaces where the revetments allow you to get on.

