

Sea Wall

You have been given sea walls as your method of coastal protection. Your job is to record how sea walls 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 sea walls work and give information about their strengths and weaknesses. Be as creative as you can during your presentation.

How do sea walls work?

What are the strengths of sea walls?

What are the weaknesses of sea walls?

Draw a labelled diagram to show how sea walls work.

Sea Walls

A sea wall is a hard engineering method of protecting the coastline. They are usually made out of solid material such as stone or concrete and are placed at the bottom of the cliff or land they are designed to protect.

The design of a sea wall usually involves a curved face which absorbs the power of the wave and then reflects it back out to sea. This is effective in reducing the energy of the wave. Sea walls are very good at stopping erosion to cliffs and even have a positive impact for the town's economy because they can have a walkway on top of them which are popular with tourists. These walk ways often have attractions on or special features which attract visitors to the area.

Some people think sea walls are visually intrusive, though. They are unnatural features which can make a negative impact on the coastal scenery. They are also very expensive to build. You can expect to pay £6000 for every metre of sea wall that is constructed. But that is not the end of the cost – because sea walls are continually battered by the sea, they need regular maintenance and repair. This can be very expensive as well.

