COASTS

What is a Coast?

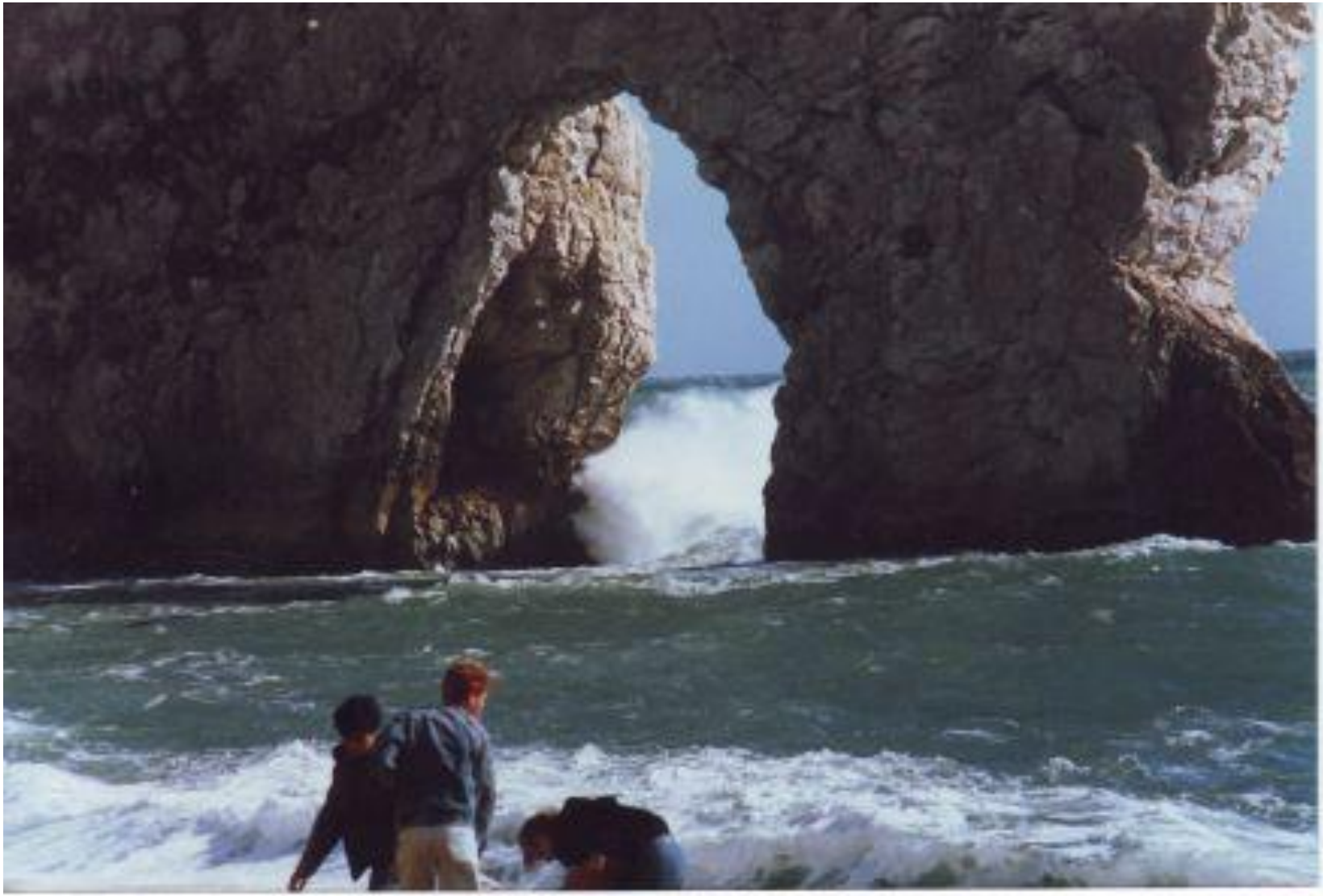
It is where the land meets the sea. There are many different types:

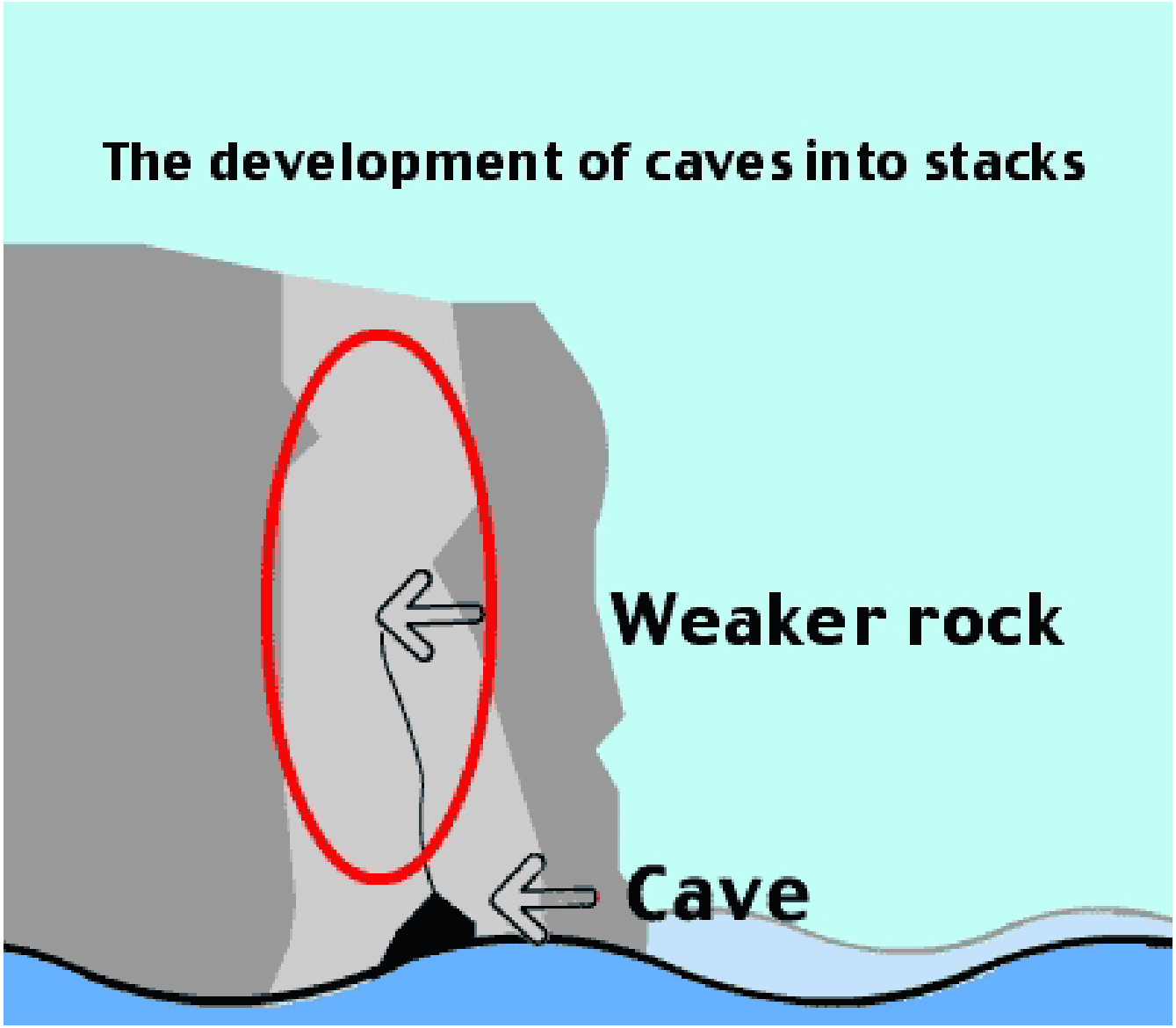
- Bays
- Beaches
- Headlands
- Cliffs

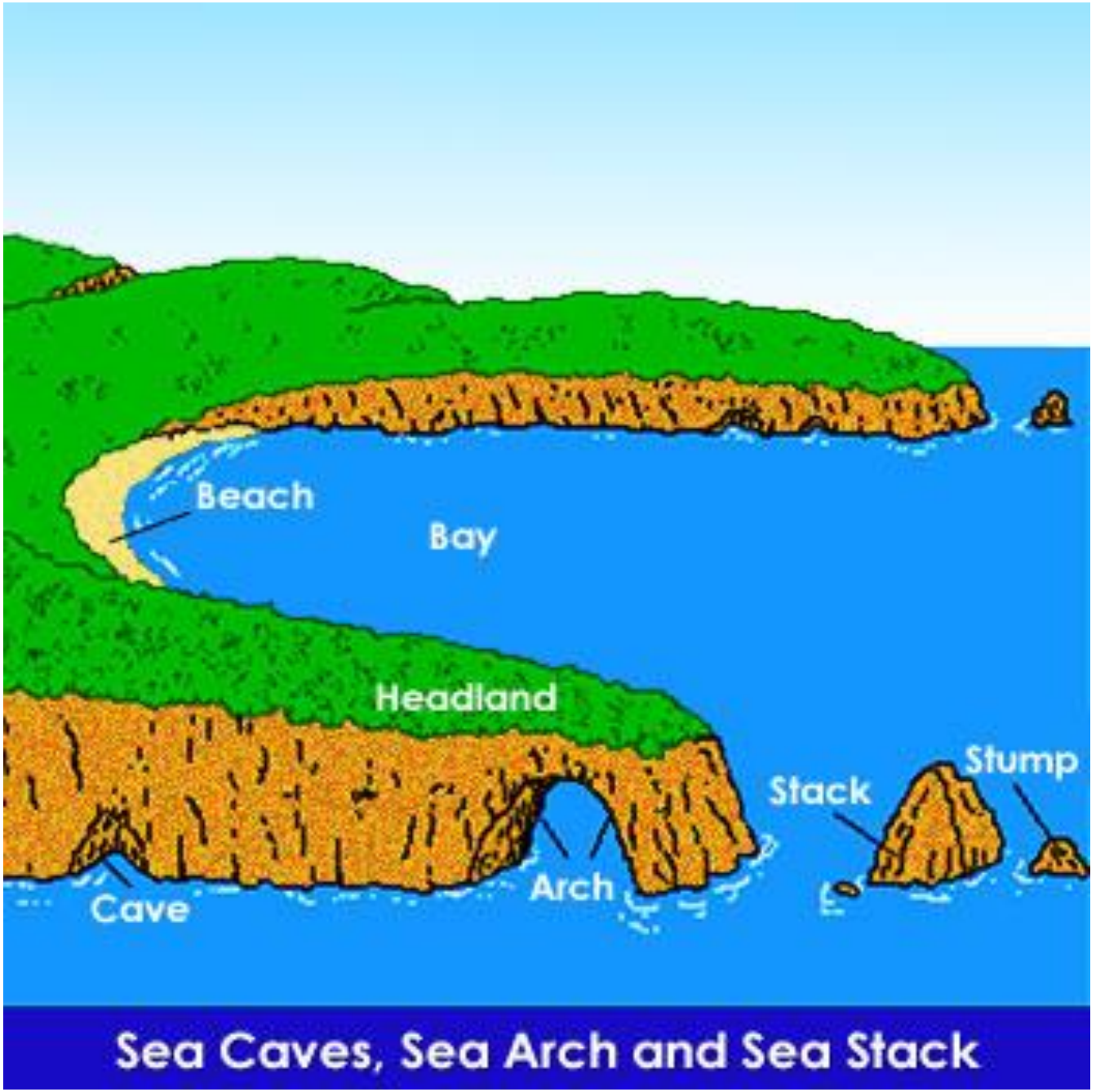
Coasts are always changing because the wind and water work on them continually. Coasts cover only a small part of the land. They are home to many plants, bird and animals.

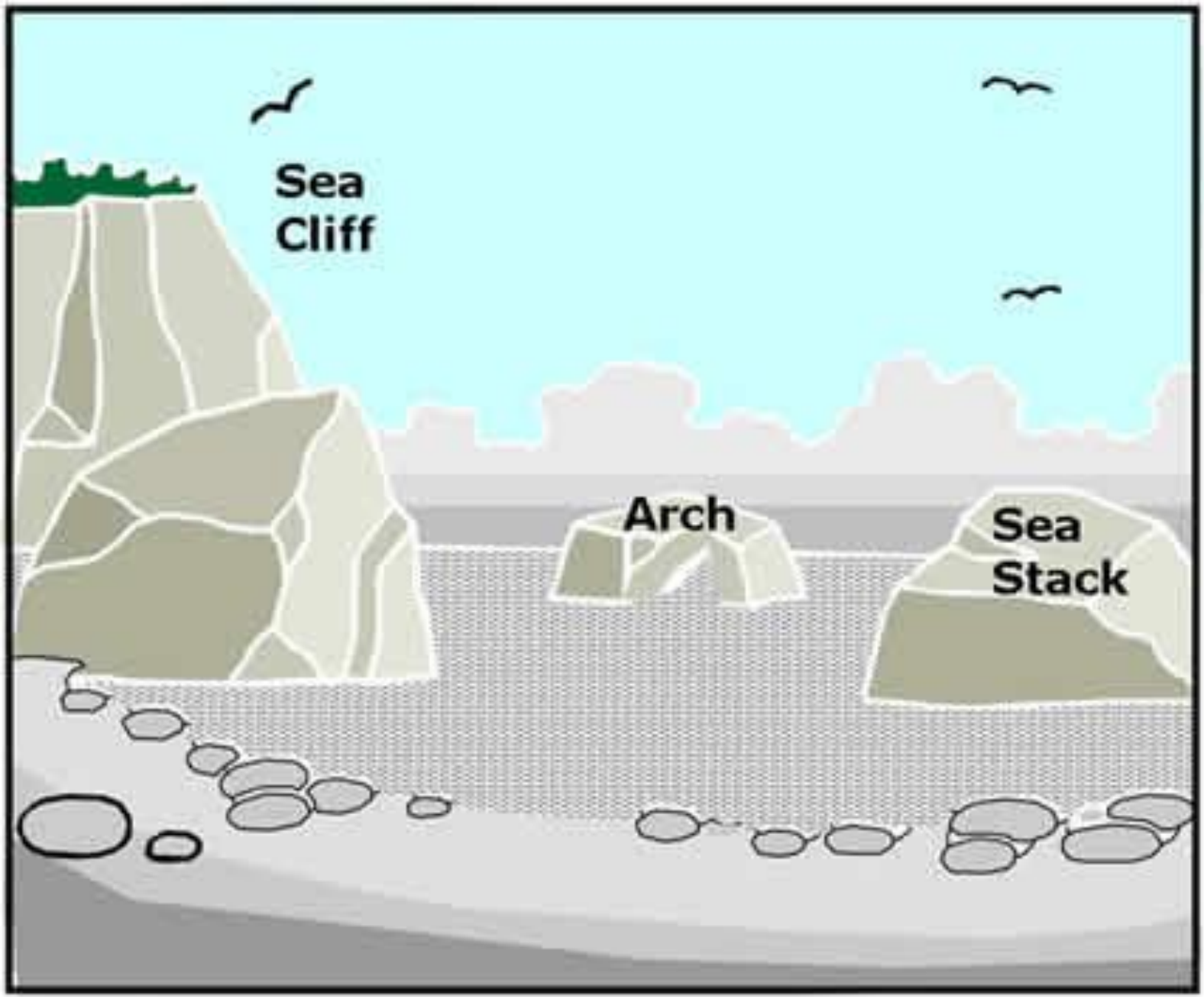
Caves, arches, stacks

- **Waves are particularly good at finding any weakness in a rock, such as a joint. By erosion any vertical line of weakness may be increased in size into a cave . However, the rock needs to be relatively hard or resistant otherwise it will collapse before the cave is formed.**
  Once a cave has formed, when a wave breaks, it blocks off the face of the cave and traps the air within it. This compresses the air trapped inside the cave, which increases the pressure on the roof, back and sides.
  If the cave forms part of a narrow headland, the pressures from the waves may result in the back of the cave being pushed through to the other side so that it is open at both sides. The cave then becomes a natural arch . The base of the arch is attacked by waves, putting more and more pressure on the top of the arch.
- **After continued erosion, and especially if there is a weak point at the top of the arch, the arch collapses and becomes a stack . The stack is a piece of rock isolated from the main coastline. However, the stack itself is attacked by waves from all sides. It is gradually reduced in size, forming a stump and eventually it collapses so that all the signs of where the coastline used to lie disappear.**




The development of caves into stacks
Weaker rock
Cave


Beach
Bay
Headland
Stack
Stump
Arch
Cave
Sea Caves, Sea Arch and Sea Stack


Sea
Cliff
Arch
Sea
Stack