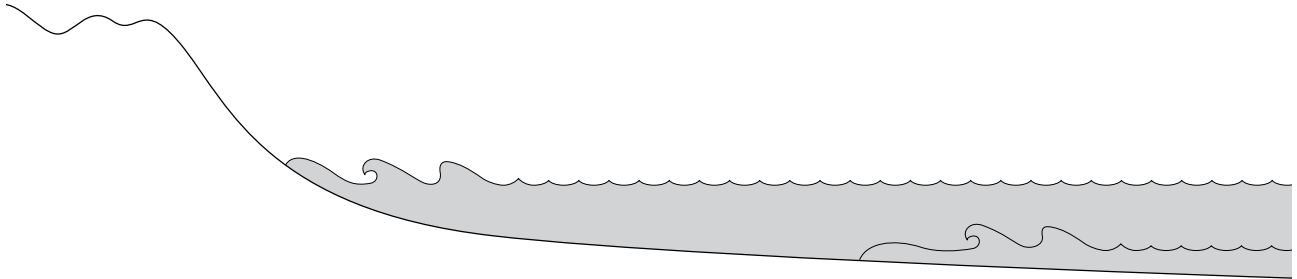


Beaches of many uses

Beaches are used by people on holiday. But few probably realise that where they go on a beach is controlled by how the beach forms.



Q1. On the diagram above, label the upper beach, sand dunes and lower beach.

Q2. Now label the place where the waves reach at high tide and where they reach at low tide.

Q3. Label the place on the diagram where you would see people sitting down (use Picture 1, page 26 of *The Coast Book*).

Q4. Write down why you think they have chosen this part of the beach to sit on.



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Q5. In the distance of Picture 1, page 26, there are few people sitting on the beach. Write down why you think this is.



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Q6. Write down why you think there are few people on the right of the picture.



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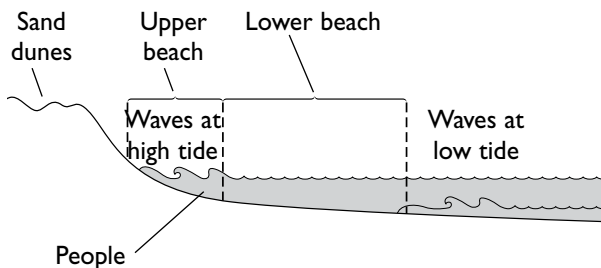
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Answers

1,2,3. As diagram.



4. **They have chosen the upper part of the beach to sit on because it is drier, it is unaffected by tides for the longest and it is most sheltered from coastal winds.**
5. **There are fewer people in the distance because it is further from the access to the beach.**
6. **The right of the picture is the lower beach. This is exposed for the shortest period between tides, it is lower and flatter and so drains least well. The sand here is generally cold and damp.**

Notes

Here we change from a purely physical study and begin to look at the way that people interact with the coastal environment. Here, the children put themselves in the position of the people on the beach and then try to establish just how far people are subconsciously influenced by physical factors around them.

Beaches are used in many ways, and this exercise concentrates simply where holidaymakers choose to sit or play when they go down to the beach.

The study relates the water table in the sand and the height of the beach above low tide to the density of use of the beach.

There is only a small difference in height between the upper and lower beach, but this is enough to give great contrasts in use. The lower beach simply never has the time to dry out and always feels cold and damp. The upper beach may be above the reach of normal high tide and only covered by storm waves. This is indicated by the inflatable castle, which is a commercial operation and would take time to inflate and remove.

The main access to the beach is immediately on the left of the picture. Ease of access is therefore an important factor in choosing a place to sit (in the distance there are fewer people because the effort of walking to those places is greater).