

## Unit 8 Seaside weather

### 1. Whole class instruction

**Objective:** To introduce children to the idea that weather varies between calm and storm and that this affects waves and the energy they have to change the coast (as well as threaten people).



#### 1.1. Classroom cinema

**“Have you ever been to the seaside on a stormy winter’s day?”**

- ▶ Make a point of showing the contrast between calm sunny seaside weather and stormy winter weather. Explain that nothing much happens to change the coast on a calm day. But it is very different on a stormy day. The videos show the difference.

Video classroom cinema shows weather and surfing in summer and winter.

#### Coast Book 34-7; Weather book 34-5

**“What happens to the weather at the seaside through the year”**

- ▶ There are a variety of ideas here, and this can be cross-curricular with weather and also with risk assessment (keeping safe), which is an important topic and so should be covered. See workbook 3 opposite.
- ▶ The weather book concentrates on summer breezes and what makes it cooler on a sunny day by the coast.
- ▶ The Coast book concentrates on the extra energy in a large winter waves and how it can change the cliffs.
- ▶ You should aim to mix the videos and book here because the videos add extra, vital atmosphere.

Other seaside weather videos are:

313 Why are there no waves

33 Beaches in summer

318 Storm surfing

41 The seaside in winter

42 Sheltered harbour

### 2a. Group exploration

#### Wave aquarium: class demonstration

- ▶ This is an experiment you can do in a deep

clear-sided bowl. It should be rectangular and as long as possible. An aquarium is ideal. Do the experiment on your own before trying it in class to get something that works for you. Put about an inch of sand in the bottom of the bowl and then add water to about the half way mark.

- ▶ Rock the aquarium backwards and forwards gently and you will soon have waves lapping against both ends. Watch the way the sand moves. This is summer.
- ▶ Rock the bowl backwards and forwards more and more vigorously by lifting one end higher and then lowering it so that the waves grow and eventually splash out of the bowl. Watch the sand again. This is winter storm weather.
- ▶ You can add stones to each end of the bowl and see if this stops the waves from becoming so big (coastal defence).

## 2b. Literacy activity

### Comprehension workbook 1: Grace Darling

- ▶ There is nothing better than a human interest story to give an idea of the relationship between nature at the coast and the frailty and courage of people. The Grace Darling Rescue would be ideal here.

## 3. Plenary session

- ▶ Get children to say what they think they have learned and discuss how the Grace Darling rescue could have been avoided (including weather-related coastal advice to save modern day rescues being needed).

## 4. Further work/homework

- ▶ Ask children to find any other weather story that they see in the news or know about.



You will need an empty aquarium, some sand and water.

**Do literacy  
comprehension  
workbook 1  
Grace Darling  
and/or  
workbook 3  
The sea has  
eaten my  
house.**