

Comprehension Workbook 3

# The sea has eaten my house

## Storms and coasts



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles



# The sea has eaten my house

## Storms and coasts



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

# Storms and coasts

Matches the requirements of the Literacy Strategy and designed to integrate with your normal subject studies. (This material is independent of any specific text book and can be used alongside any publisher's books including our textbook.)

## Contents

### Unit 3: The sea has eaten my house

	<b>Storms and coasts</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Understanding words</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>Finding key words</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Summarising</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>Sequencing</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>Get to the facts (AF 2-3)</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>Whys and wherefores (AF 4-5)</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>Opinions matter (AFs 6-7)</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Talking it through</b>	<b>11</b>
	<b>Make a story...</b>	<b>12</b>
	<b>Print the story (from PDF)</b>	<b>13</b>



# The sea has eaten my house

The weather at the coast can be severe. Most people only visit coasts in the summer, so they only see the nice things about waves. But there is another side, as these people found out...



"Like many other people, we had decided to retire to the seaside. We wanted to be able to look out over the sea while sitting cosily at home. So we looked for a beachside home.

When we saw the home in summer, the sun was shining, the waves were lapping up the beach and everything looked just perfect.

We had been to the seaside many times before in the summer and this little house was just what we imagined. All we had to do was to walk a few feet and we were on the sand.

So we moved in and all was fine – until the day the storm came. We had never seen waves so big. They seemed as tall as our little house. The wind was lashing the waves higher and higher and the tide was rising, too. Now our little home was a frightening place to be.

It was then that the police came knocking on our door. They told us it was not safe to stay any longer, and hadn't we heard the warnings on the radio?

They more or less bundled us out of our house. We took just what we could carry and get into the car. And that was the last we ever saw of our little house.

After the storm was over, we went back. The road was so badly damaged that we had to walk a long way. The waves had simply ripped the road up and carried away the low cliff it was built on.

Our little house was nowhere to be seen. The sea seemed just to have eaten the cliff where it once stood. As we looked around we saw that where we had lived was now just beach. It was almost as though our house had never existed."





# Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

**a** Write the sentence in which you found the word 'bundled'.

**b** From that sentence, suggest what 'bundled' means.

**c** Write a new sentence using the word 'bundled'.

**d** Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'bundled'.

**e** Draw a small picture showing what you think 'bundled' means.



# Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: damaged	smashed



3

# Summarising

(the gist of the story)

To summarise means to rewrite the story in a shorter version using as many of our key words from Task 2 as needed.

**1** Write a heading for your summary.

**2** Now write the main idea in one sentence.  
e.g. "This story tells us..."

**3** Now add some detail to the main idea by writing more sentences after it.

**Finally,  
can you rewrite your  
summary to make it better?**

- 1. Look out for errors such as using the same word too often – use alternatives.**
- 2. Make sure you have summarised the author's purpose in your OWN words.**
- 3. Make sure your summary is in a logical order.**
- 4. Is your summary informative AND interesting to others?**

**There is  
nothing wrong  
with rewriting; even  
the best authors  
rewrite their  
work.**



# Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order.  
Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make



The police came and said it was no longer safe to stay.

We chose a place just a few feet from the beach.

As the tide rose and the winds howled it was a frightening place to be.

We saw our beachside home in summer when the waves were small.

All was fine until the day the storm came.

We had decided to retire to the seaside.



# Get to the facts

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the facts of the story.



1 Where did they retire?

2 How far was their house from the beach?

3 When did they see the home they chose?

4 What did the police say?

5 What happened to the house?





# Whys and wherefores

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the meanings in the story and how it was written.



1 Why did they want to retire to the seaside?

2 Why did the large waves come as a surprise?

3 Why did they never see their house again?

4 What had the storm done to the road?





# Opinions matter

Answer these questions to give your views and to develop the story.

1 Do you think it was right to buy a house by the seaside?

2 Do you think the people should have waited until winter before buying?

3 Write about whether you would have bought a seaside house.

4 What would you have done before buying a seaside house?

5 Would you rebuild your house in the same place?





# Talking it through

It often helps if a group of people get together and discuss a problem.



## Discussion topic: Coping with disaster

Sometimes you get caught up in a disaster. For example, your beach house might be destroyed by big waves during a storm. Discuss what you should do to prepare for a disaster, and what you should do if disaster strikes.





# Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.



## Rocking stilts!

Imagine you have a home by the sea and it is built on stilts out over the waves at high tide. Make a story about what it feels like as the tide rises and a storm approaches.



# The sea has eaten my house

The weather at the coast can be severe. Most people only visit coasts in the summer, so they only see the nice things about waves. But there is another side as these people found out...

"Like many other people, we had decided to retire to the seaside. We wanted to be able to look out over the sea while sitting cosily at home. So we looked for a beachside home.

When we saw the home in summer, the sun was shining, the waves were lapping up the beach and everything looked just perfect.

We had been to the seaside many times before in the summer and this little house was just what we imagined. All we had to do was to walk a few feet and we were on the sand.

So we moved in and all was fine – until the day the storm came. We had never seen waves so big. They seemed as tall as our little house. The wind was lashing the waves higher and higher and the tide was rising, too. Now our little home was a frightening place to be.

It was then that the police came knocking on our door. They told us it was not safe to stay any longer, and hadn't we heard the warnings on the radio?

They more or less bundled us out of our house. We took just what we could carry and get into the car. And that was the last we ever saw of our little house.

After the storm was over, we went back. The road was so badly damaged that we had to walk a long way. The waves had simply ripped the road up and carried away the low cliff it was built on.

Our little house was nowhere to be seen. The sea seemed just to have eaten the cliff where it once stood. As we looked around we saw that where we had lived was now just beach. It was almost as though our house had never existed."