

# Beside the seaside

Settlements that rely on a site by the sea have some special features found in no other kind of place.

**Q1.** Write down the name of a place that specialises in catering for holidaymakers.

 R.....

**Q2.** What is the special shape that such places have? Draw the boundary of this shape onto the diagram.

**Q3.** What natural coastal feature do most successful seaside resorts have? Write this on to the diagram below.

**Q4.** What man-made features would you expect to find in the centre of many seaside towns?

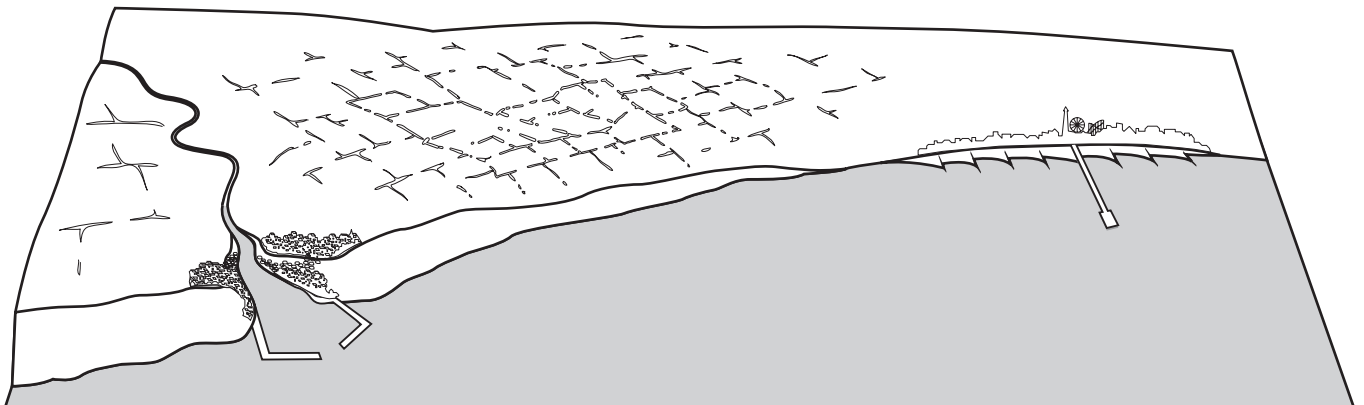
 .....

**Q5.** The largest resort in the country is Blackpool. Most people reach Blackpool along the M55. Why is Blackpool linked to the rest of the country by a special motorway?

 .....

**Q6.** Who often live on the outskirts of seaside towns? Write these onto the diagram.

 .....



## Background

The key point to understanding seaside resorts in their many guises is to think of access to the sea for recreation as a resource, just like coal, or a natural harbour. In this case, the resource is access to the beach and a sea view.

If the coast has a wide, sandy beach, then the town will sprawl along the coast. The time comes, however, when access to the central shopping functions will become too remote and so another centre will develop. Many coastal regions are actually conurbations of many resorts because of this. Get students to look at maps of the Blackpool area and see how several towns exist side by side. The same is true of the south coast of England, around Brighton, for example, where much of the coast has been urbanised. East Anglia has similar areas of coastal development, e.g. Clacton, etc.

The main business of resorts is to cater for the holidaymaker and so functions that do this replace the offices and other business activities that would be found in any other town or city. This concentration on recreation gives resorts a very different feel from commercial cities.

Notice, too, that with seasonal business, the resorts have a widely fluctuating character, varying from an almost abandoned and derelict feel in the depth of winter to an unbearably crowded feel in the height of the summer season.

You could discuss with students how business might be encouraged to stretch more evenly over the year (and bring in such things as spring and autumn breaks, conferences, winter lights and so on).

You might also care to contrast the major resorts with those that have developed from their attractiveness as a working settlement, usually a fishing village. Whitby, used by so many people for field trips, is a classic case. Pictures of Whitby are on the web site ([www.curriculumvisions.com/](http://www.curriculumvisions.com/) more). There are many others, of course, from tiny Clovelly in Devon and Staithes in North Yorkshire, to much bigger places that have developed from fishing such as Hastings.

Finally, you may care to discuss the fact that coasts are among the most actively changing of all natural environments and that there can be considerable difficulty in reconciling people and coast. Coastal erosion is an obvious problem. This is more fully covered in *The Environment Pack* which is uniform with *The Places Pack*.

## Answers

**Q1. (Holiday) resort**

**Q2. They extend a long way along the coast to give as many people access as possible to the sea.**

**Q3. Good access to a beach, preferably a sandy beach (although this has not prevented development of some famous places such as Brighton, where the upper part of the beach is shingle).**

**Q4. Places of entertainment such as amusement arcades and funfairs. Also restaurants, theatres and hotels. The main shopping street may well be separate from these 'business' functions.**

**Q5. The trade of a seaside resort is heavily concentrated at certain times of the year. Most people arrive and depart from a resort at the weekend. In addition, the resort experiences many weekend visitors and people just going for the day. These concentrated movements of visitors can result in traffic jams, and the motorway is designed to reduce the impact of jams on the approaches to the town.**

**Q6. Retired people often live on the outskirts but near the sea, benefiting from the coastal location which provides a good place to promenade but away from the more expensive central regions.**

