

We had to move quickly, time was tight, the tide was turning, racing towards us – an unstoppable force. Below, on the rocks the casualty was lying, still and silent, his dog whimpering miserably by his side. Above us the thrum of the coastguard helicopter filled our ears.

We had raced to the scene. A dog had slipped down the cliff face, its owner had attempted to rescue it. Now we were rescuing them both. A race against time.

Checking the harness, Sam slowly started the descent, loose stones and soil slipping under her feet. The menacing waves growing ever closer.

1. How do you think Sam feels as she descends the cliff face? Why?
2. Imagine you are reporting this story for the news. What would you say?
3. What might have happened to the casualty? Why do you think this?
4. Why is this rescue 'a race against time'?
5. The helicopter noise is described as a 'thrum'. What is a simile for this?
6. If you could shout down to the casualty, what would you say? Why?

Be a detective.



What equipment does a mountain rescue team use?

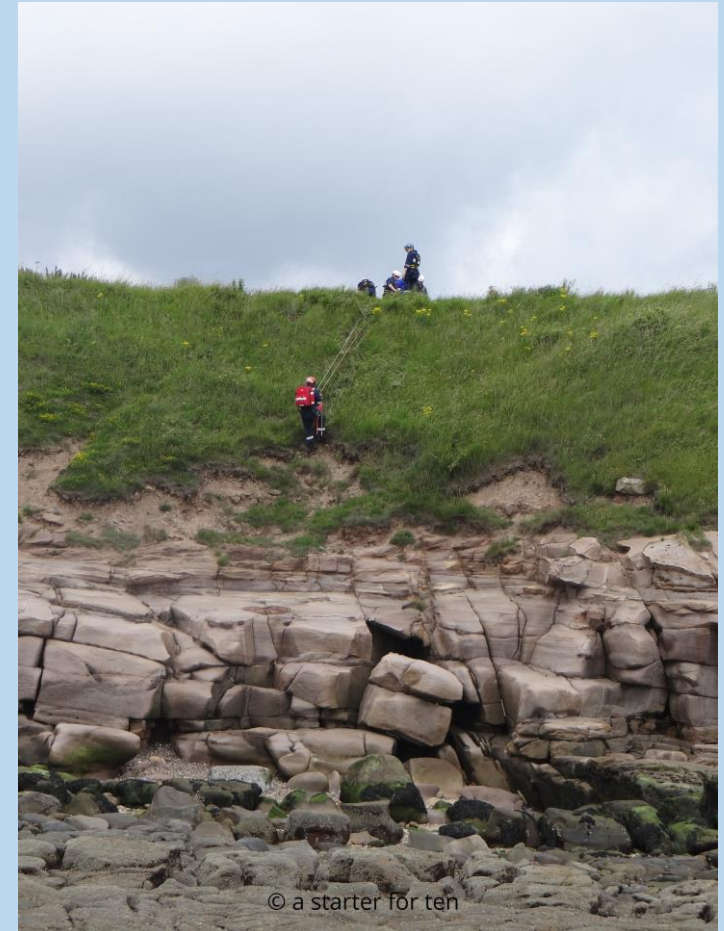
How are coastlines eroded (worn away)?

What are the different flags seen at the beach? What do they mean?

The Coast Guard was originally set up to stop smugglers. How did they do this?

Find out about a village, or houses, that have fallen into the sea because of erosion. What happened?

Create a poster or presentation to keep people safe at the coast.



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