

STONES PICKED UP
BY WAVES AND THROWN AT
THE CLIFF

Abrasion

STONES RUBBING EACH
OTHER MAKING THEMSELVES
SMALLER AND
ROUNDER

Attrition

How the sea erodes

Solution

ROCK DISSOLVES

Undertow

WAVES CLAW
BEACH AWAY

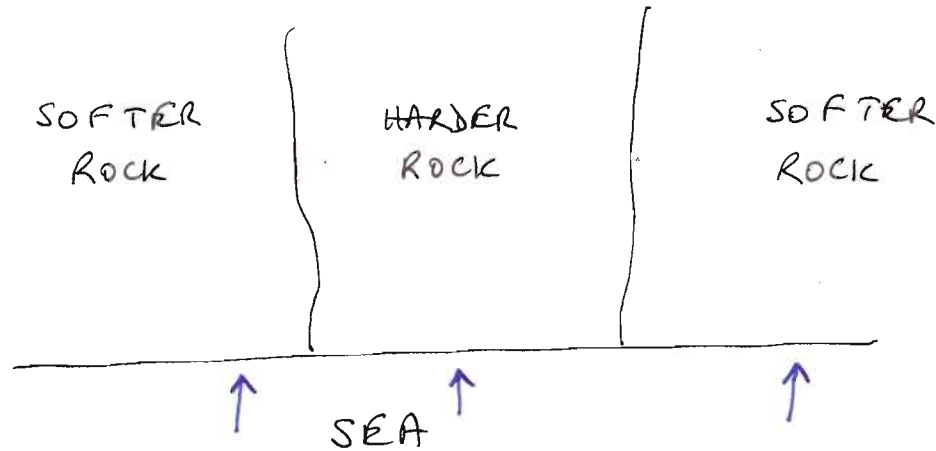
Hydraulic
Action

WAVES COMPRESS AND
SUDDENLY RELEASE AIR
IN CRACKS.

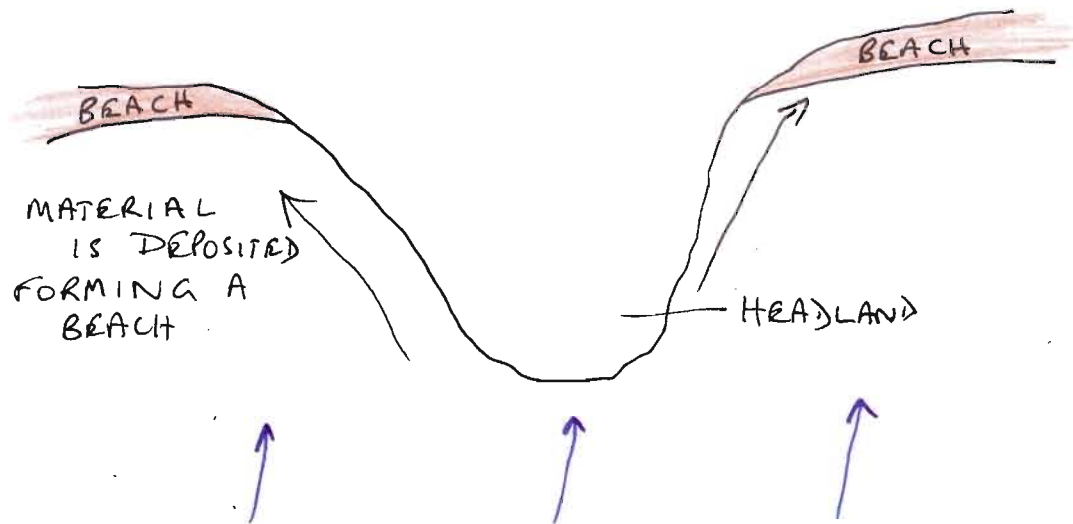
Formation of a Headland

From Above

1.



2.



SEA HAS ERODED SOFTER ROCK MORE QUICKLY THAN HARDER ROCK.

Formation of a Wave-cut Platform



Erosion by the sea creates a notch. The overhanging rock collapses and is worn away by attrition.

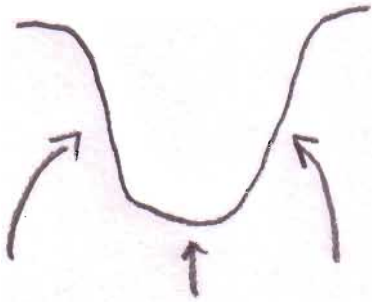
After a long time the cliff has retreated, leaving a wave-cut platform. This is an area of flat rocks covered with water at high tide.

Formation of a Stack

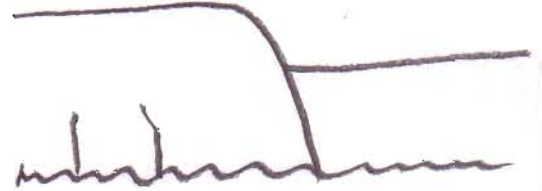
From Above

From the Side

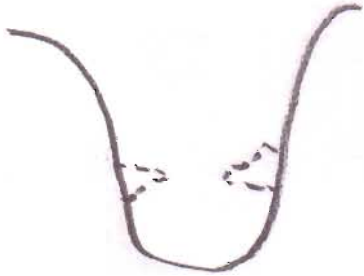
1.



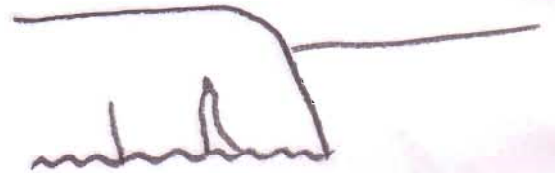
Sea attacks the headland, making the cracks in the rocks wider.



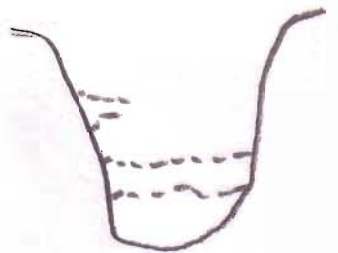
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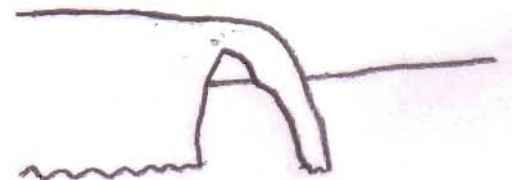
The cracks grow into caves.



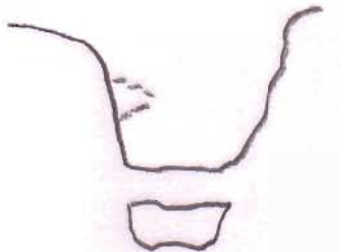
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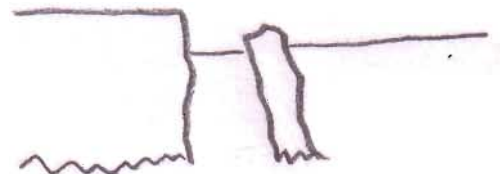
The caves join together to form an arch.



4.

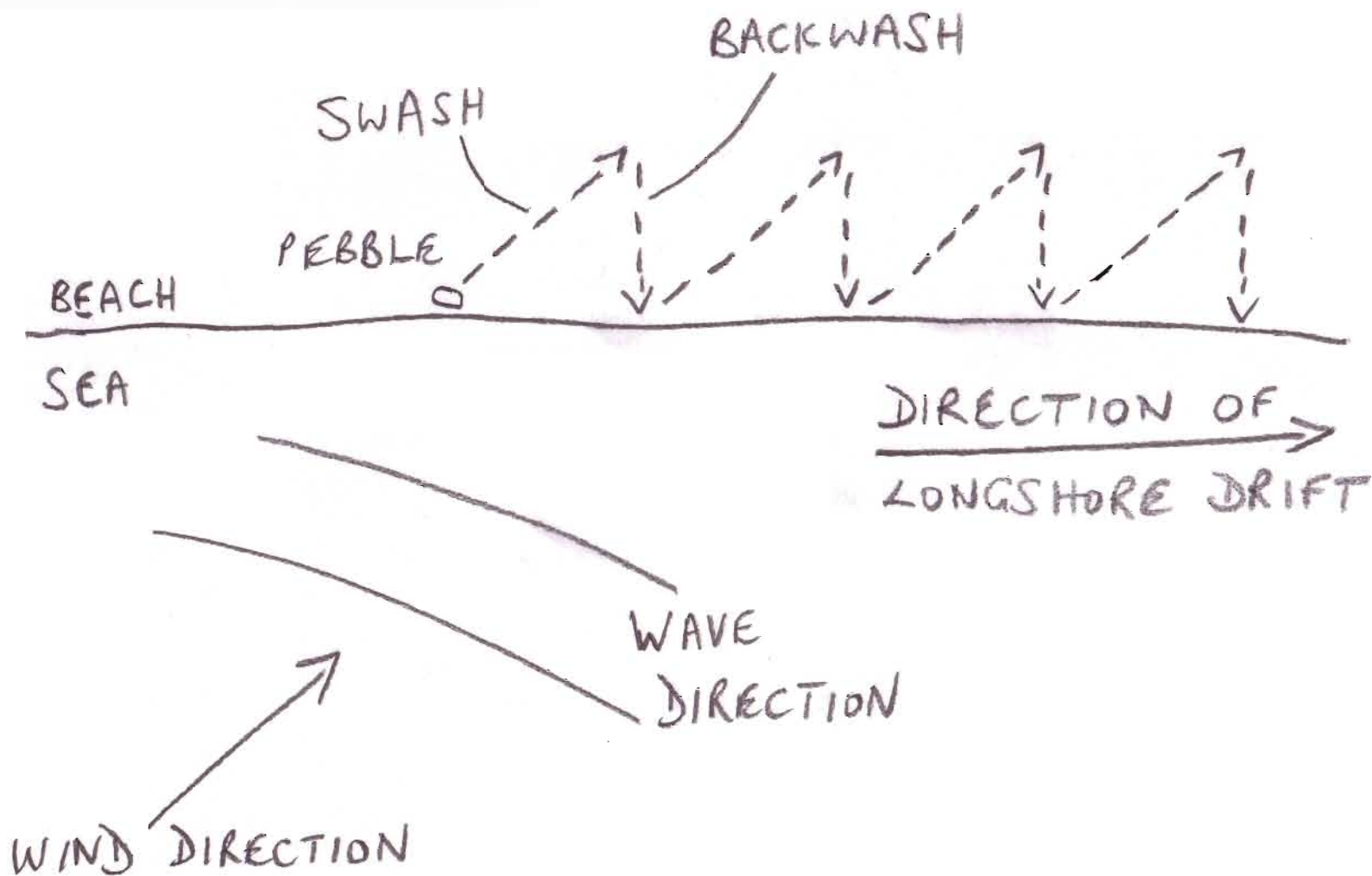


The arch collapses leaving a stack.



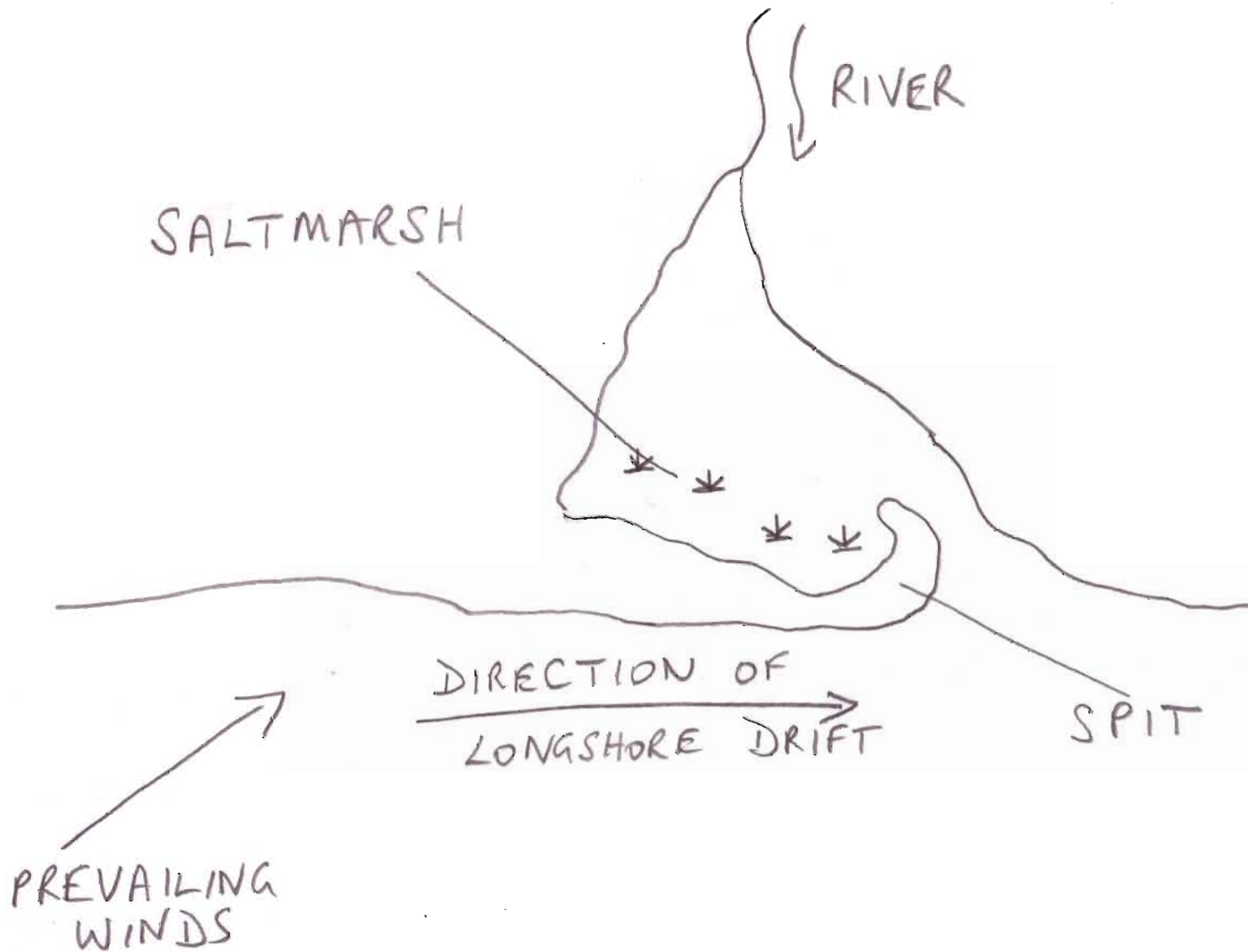
How longshore drift works

(longshore drift is the movement of sand and pebbles along a beach)



Waves wash the pebble up the beach at an angle, then bring it back straight because of gravity.

Formation of a Spit



Beach material is moved by longshore drift across the mouth of a river. It does not block the mouth completely because of the strength of the tides. A saltmarsh may form in the still water behind the spit because river sediment is deposited.