

Vocabulary

Study the vocabulary words and definitions below.

beach shore area of a body of water covered by sand or pebbles; area between high-tide mark and low tide mark

capillary waves small waves or ripples on the surface of the water

crest highest point on a wave

elliptical orbit an oval-shaped path around a center point

orbit curved path around a center point

plunging breaker wave that collapses and destroys the wave form as it enters shallow water; produces a crashing sound

rogue wave a large single wave with very high crests and low troughs

sand bar underwater deposition of sand

sea cave a hollowed-out portion of rock that has been eroded by waves

sea cliffs steep faces of rock that have been eroded by waves

sea stacks columns of hard rock left behind by the erosion of a sea cliff

Vocabulary

spilling breaker wave that moves as a uniform line as it enters shallow water; a quiet wave

spits sand bars attached to a mainland or island that extend into open water

terrace a flat platform of rock and sand at the bottom of a sea cliff

trochoidal form of a wave having pointed crests, steep slopes, and flat troughs

trough lowest point on a wave

tsunami (soo-NAM-e) a large wave with a long wavelength; usually produced by an undersea earthquake or volcanic eruption

wave amplitude distance from still-water level to a wave's crest

wave height the vertical distance between crest and trough

wavelength the distance between two successive or adjacent crests

waves energy that moves through the ocean; the orbital motion of water

whitecap a mixture of air and water on the wave