



# TELL ME ABOUT THE JURASSIC COAST

The Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site is home to some of the most spectacular geology and varied coastal landforms and landscapes in the world.

Across the 95 miles of coast, the sea has shaped the coast into a series of incredible beaches, cliffs and bays. From Durdle Door (a natural coastal arch) to Old Harry Rocks (chalk stacks), the coastline is like a geography textbook come to life (ice cream and sand between your toes is optional though).



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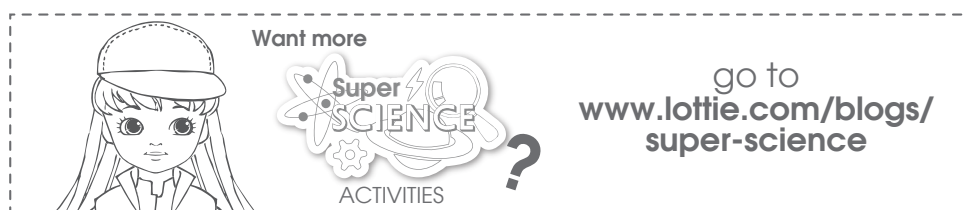
So what's so special about our rocks on the Jurassic Coast? The name comes from the best known of the geological periods found within it, but in fact the coastline includes rocks from the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods.

The different rocks tell a fascinating story from ancient deserts to tropical seas throughout the Mesozoic era, between 250 million and 65 million years ago.

Now that's climate change on a mega scale. The reason for these incredible shifts in climate is all down to a process called plate tectonics.

Basically the crustal plates on the earth surface have been moving and shifting for billions of years. As the plates have moved around on the earth's surface, climate patterns have also changed which have influenced the type of environments in which the rocks are forming.

The fossils that we find on the beaches along the Jurassic Coast tell us about the weird and wonderful places that existed a long time ago.



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