Do you know what this is?

It's a map of the United Kingdom (UK) and the Republic of Ireland.

It's an island. All around the island is the coastline and it is surrounded by sea.

The sea can be calm or it can be rough. These old photographs show us just how rough the sea can be.

Artists have always been fascinated by the sea and painted pictures to show what it can be like in rough weather.

The sea can be a very dangerous place for ships.

There are lots of paintings of ships in rough seas. Some are very old.
In very rough seas there is always danger for ships. The RNLI lifeboat and the rescue helicopter work together to save lives.

This is a photograph of the Athina-B in rough seas. She got into trouble on January 21st 1980 and ran aground.

The Riverdance was hit by a huge wave that caused her to shift. She eventually beached.

There are many artists who have painted rescue scenes. Like this painting of an incident in 1854.

Man Overboard by Sir Oswald Walters Briefly

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The Shipwreck by the British artist, Joseph Mallord William Turner 1805. At that time, shipwreck was the biggest fear of all those who travelled far from home.

Ships are not the only things battered by storms at sea. Lighthouses are often battered too.

Do you know why we have lighthouses around our coast? Can you guess?