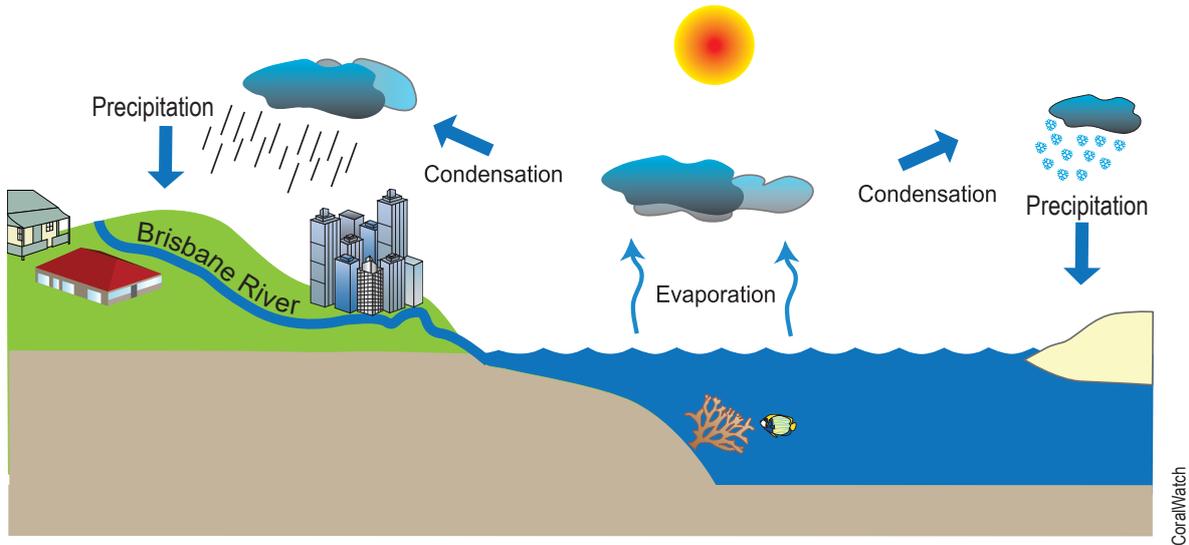


The water cycle of Moreton Bay



The water cycle of Moreton Bay begins with **liquid** water molecules on the surface of the bay and land heating up from the sun and **evaporating** into the air as a gas called water vapour. Here they rise up and enter the cool air high in the atmosphere. Once cool, the gaseous water molecules **condense** to form small liquid water droplets creating clouds. When the water droplets in clouds get too heavy, they fall to the ground as **precipitation** (rain). Often the precipitation will be deposited on land hundreds of kilometres away. When precipitation occurs in Brisbane and to the west of Brisbane, some liquid water is absorbed into the ground and excess surface water drains into local creeks. Water in hundreds of small creeks travel long distances and drain into the **Brisbane River**. The ‘**catchment area**’ of the Brisbane River is the land area where excess water drains into the river and includes 13,600 square kilometres stretching from northwest near Nanango to southwest near Toowoomba. The Brisbane River drains its collection of fresh water into the salty waters of Moreton Bay. Water that has fallen on the land hundreds of kilometres away will travel via creeks and the Brisbane River and eventually into Moreton Bay. This completes the cycle of the Moreton Bay **water cycle**.

Questions

1. Look in a dictionary and write the definition for the words in bold.

Liquid	Precipitation	Condense	Evaporating
Catchment area	Water cycle	Brisbane River	

2. Complete the table below listing water cycle stages. Fill in the physical states of water molecules and the location it can be found.

Water cycle stages	Sea water	Water vapour		Rain	Flood water		Sea water
Location	Ocean					River	