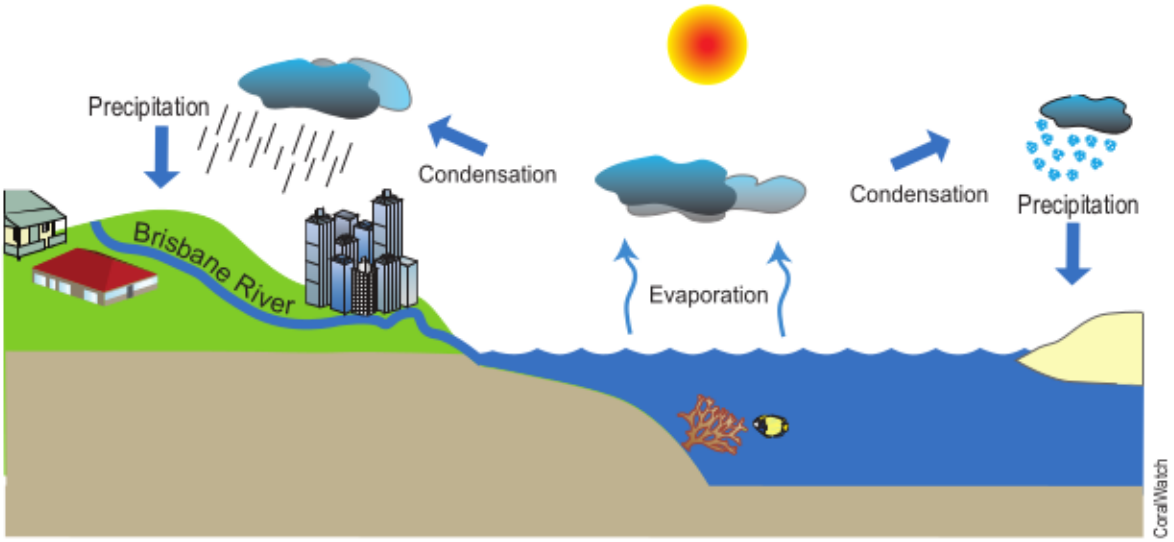
The water cycle of coastal regions



The water cycle of coastal regions begins with **liquid** water molecules on the surface of the land and the ocean that heat up from the sun and **evaporating** into the air as **gas** molecules called **water vapour**. The gas rises up and enters 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 or snow for example). Some liquid water is absorbed into the ground and the excess surface water drains into local creeks. Other water runs off from the land into rivers and creeks. This process is the same for coastal regions and on land hundreds of kilometres away. Eventually, rivers reach the coast. The '**catchment area**' of a river is the land area surrounding it, from where excess water drains into it. River catchment areas are usually extensive covering hundreds of square kilometers. Rivers drain their collection of fresh water into the salty and shallow coastal waters and oceans. This completes the cycle of the **water cycle** in coastal regions.

Questions

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

Liquid	Precipitation	Condense	Evaporating
River	Catchment area	Water cycle	Gas

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

Location	Ocean		Atmosphere			River	