

# Chapter 4

## The Energy of Life



Bicyclists: © Tyler Stableford/The Image Bank/Getty Images

# Chapter 4 Outline

- I. Energy, The Metabolism
- II. Networks of Chemical Reactions Sustain Life
- III. Cellular Energy-ATP
- IV. Enzymes
  - I. Functions
  - II. Regulations
- V. Membrane Transport

# All Cells Capture and Use Energy

Many of this biker's cells are extracting energy from food and using it to power his muscles.



# All Cells Capture and Use Energy

But what is *energy*?

**Energy** is the ability to do work—to move matter.

Types of Energy:  
**Kinetic & Potential**



# Energy Has Different Forms

TABLE 4.1 Examples of Energy in Biology

Type of Energy	Examples
Potential energy 	Chemical energy (stored in bonds) Concentration gradient across a membrane
Kinetic energy 	Light Sound Movement of atoms and molecules Muscle contraction

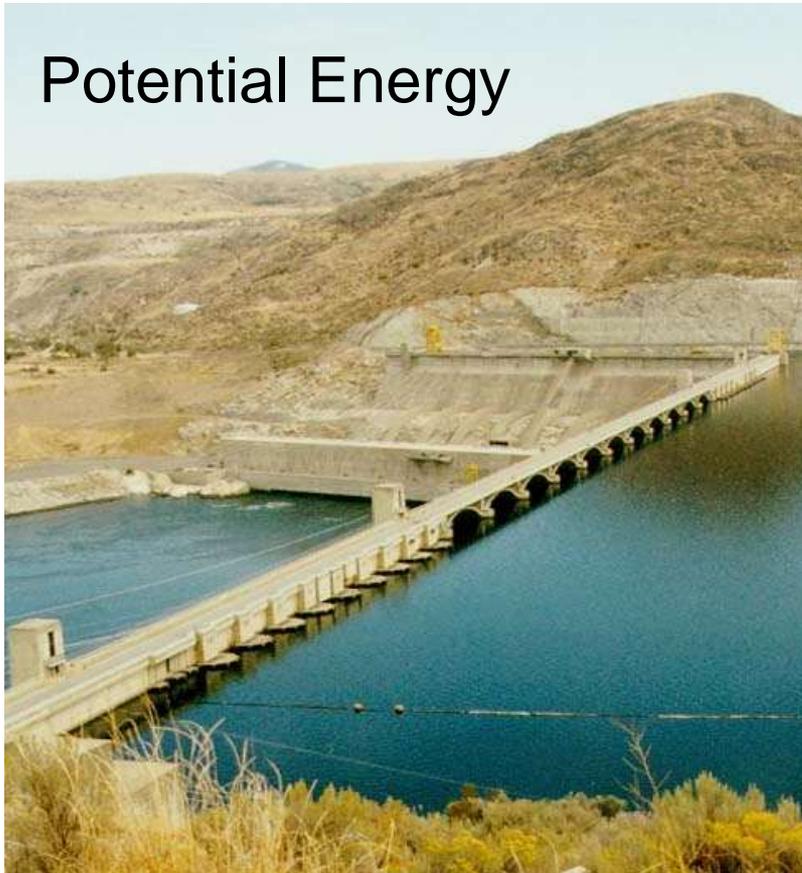


# Thermodynamics

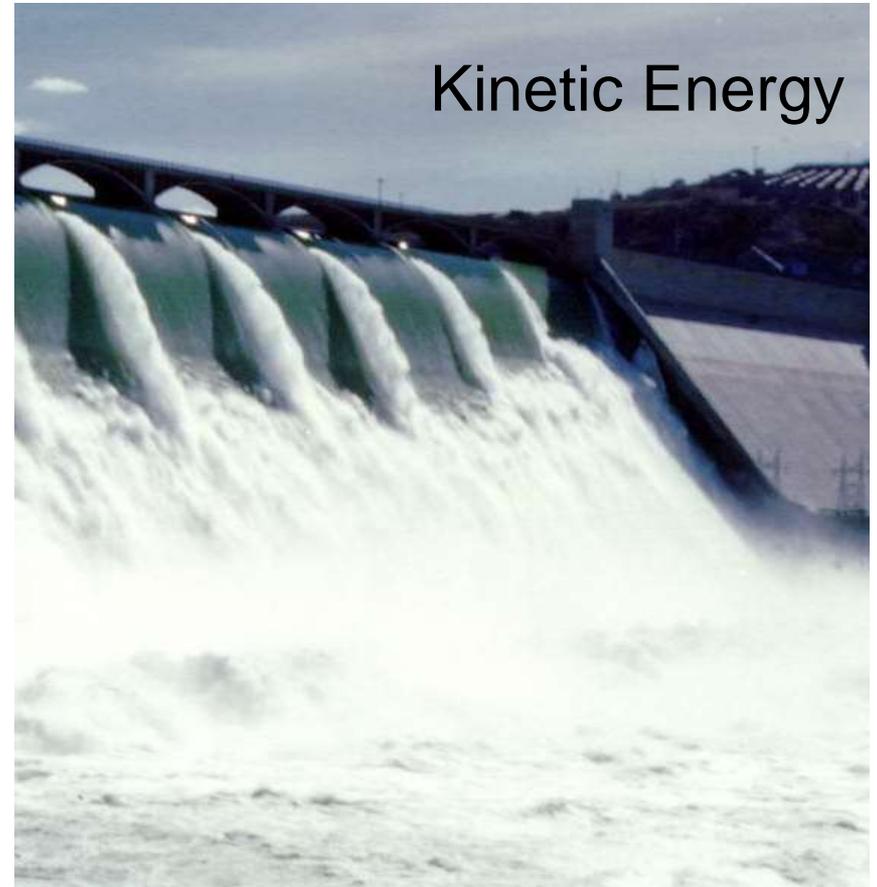
**Thermodynamics** – study of energy transformation in a system

Potential energy can be converted to kinetic energy (& vice versa)

Potential Energy



Kinetic Energy



# Thermodynamics

Laws of Thermodynamics: Explain the characteristics of energy

## 1<sup>st</sup> Law:

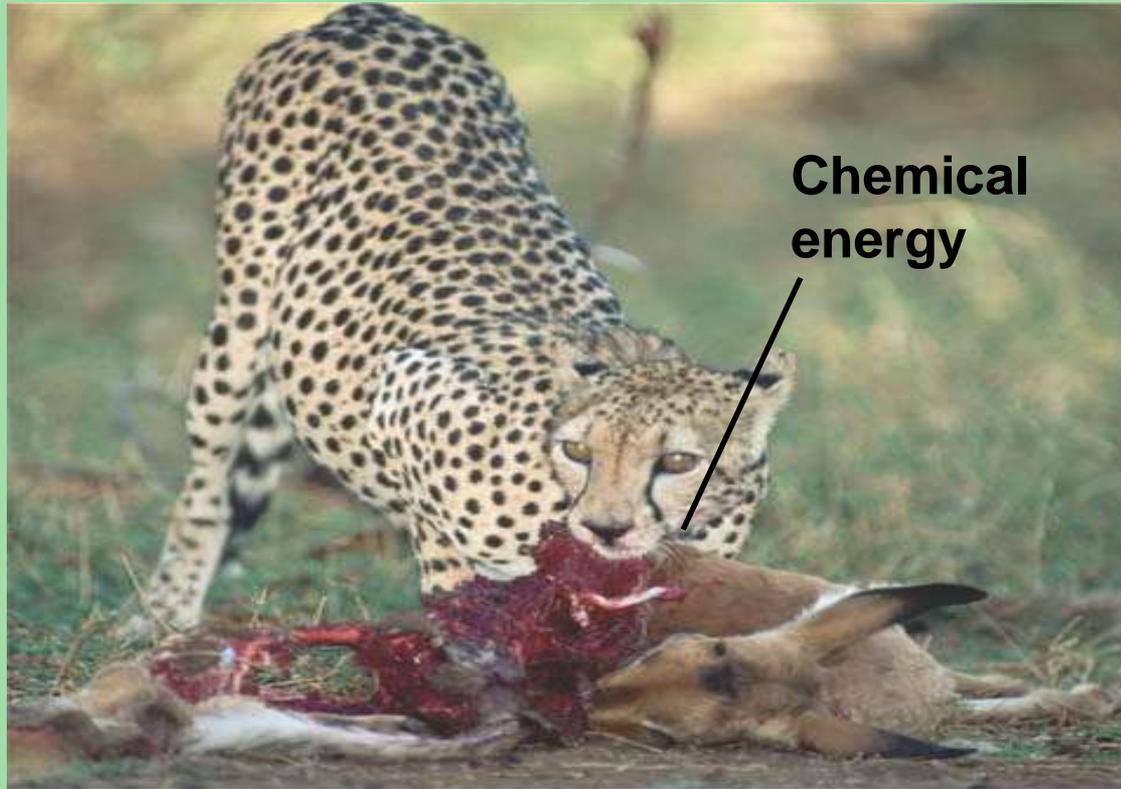
- Energy is conserved
  - Energy is not created or destroyed
  - Energy can be converted (Chemical → Heat)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Law:

- During conversions, amount of useful energy decreases
  - No process is 100% efficient
  - Entropy (measure of disorder) is increased

Energy is converted from *more useful* to *less useful* forms

# *Ex. The First Law of Thermodynamics*



For example, the chemical (potential) energy in food will be converted to the kinetic energy of the cheetah's movement

# Second Law of Thermodynamics

- The disorder (**entropy**) in the universe is continuously increasing.
  - Energy transformations proceed spontaneously to convert matter from a more ordered, less stable form, to a less ordered, more stable form

Disorder happens “spontaneously”

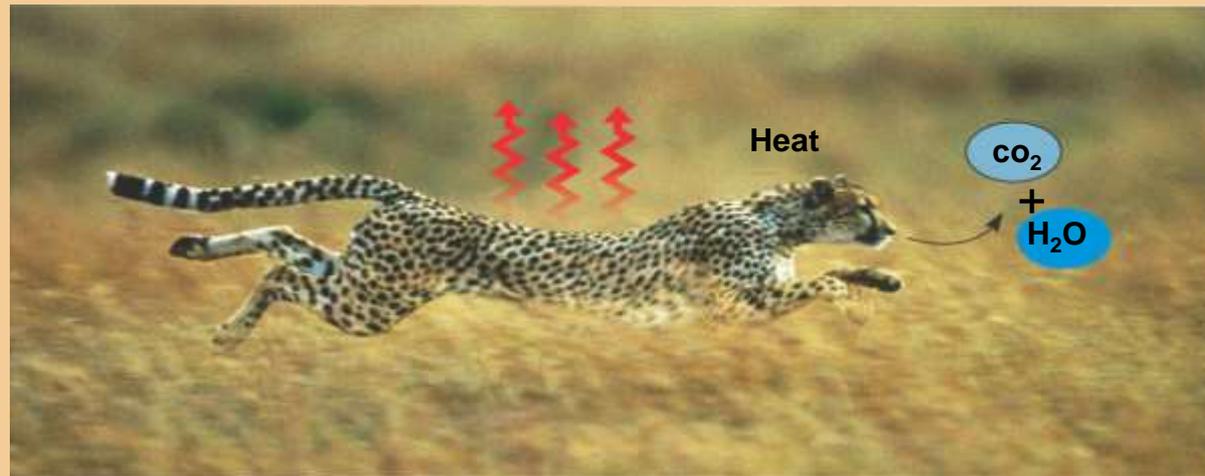


Organization requires energy



# Second Law of Thermodynamics

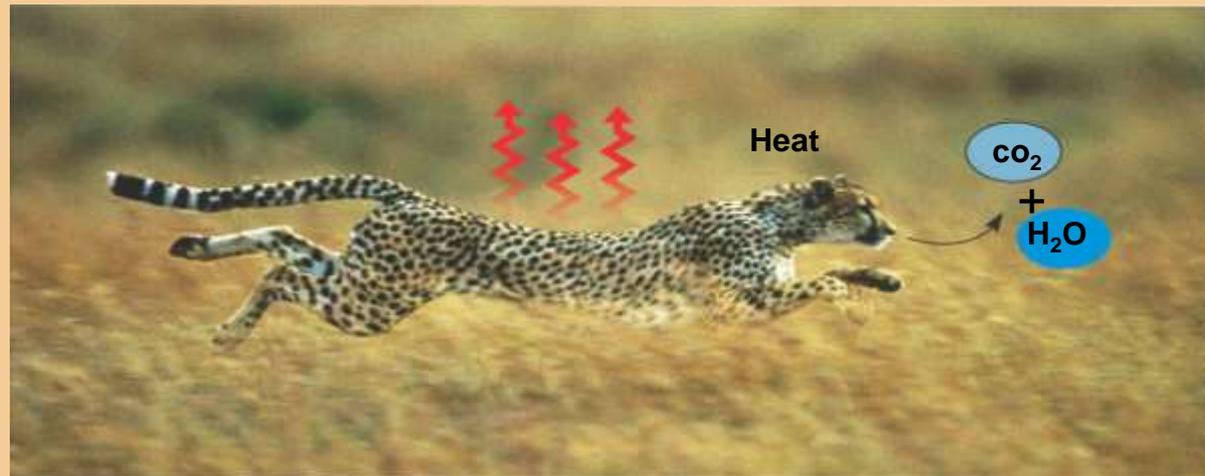
- During each conversion, some of the energy dissipates into the environment as heat.
- During every energy transfer or transformation, some energy is unusable, often lost as heat
- **Heat** is defined as the measure of the random motion of molecules



For example, disorder is added to the cheetah's surroundings in the form of heat and the small molecules that are the by-products of metabolism.

# Second Law of Thermodynamics

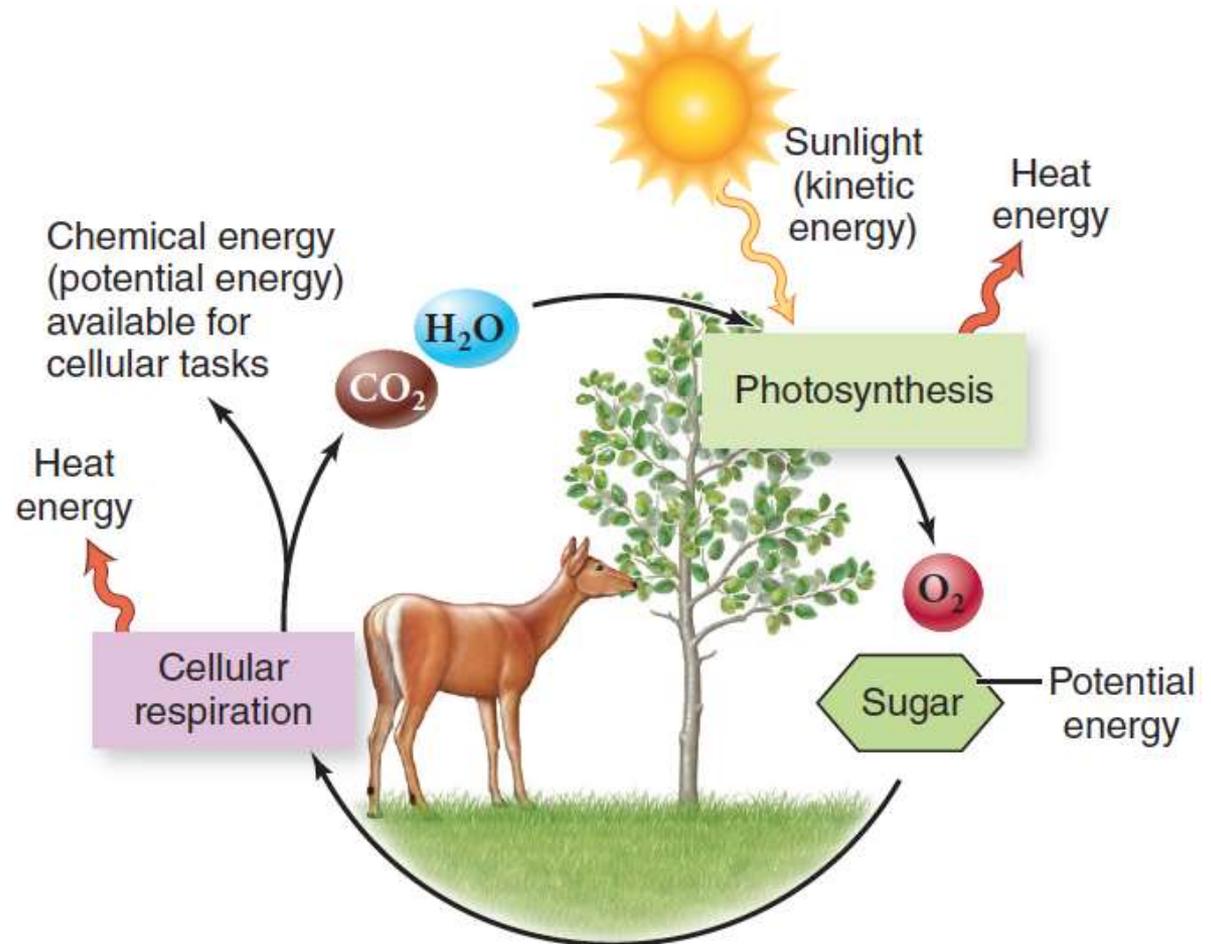
- Living cells unavoidably convert organized forms of energy to heat
- According to the second law of thermodynamics, every energy transfer or transformation increases the entropy (disorder) of the universe



For example, disorder is added to the cheetah's surroundings in the form of heat and the small molecules that are the by-products of metabolism.

# Energy Transformations Are Inefficient

Notice that heat energy is lost at each step. Heat energy is disordered and cannot be converted back to a useful form of energy... **second law of thermodynamics.**



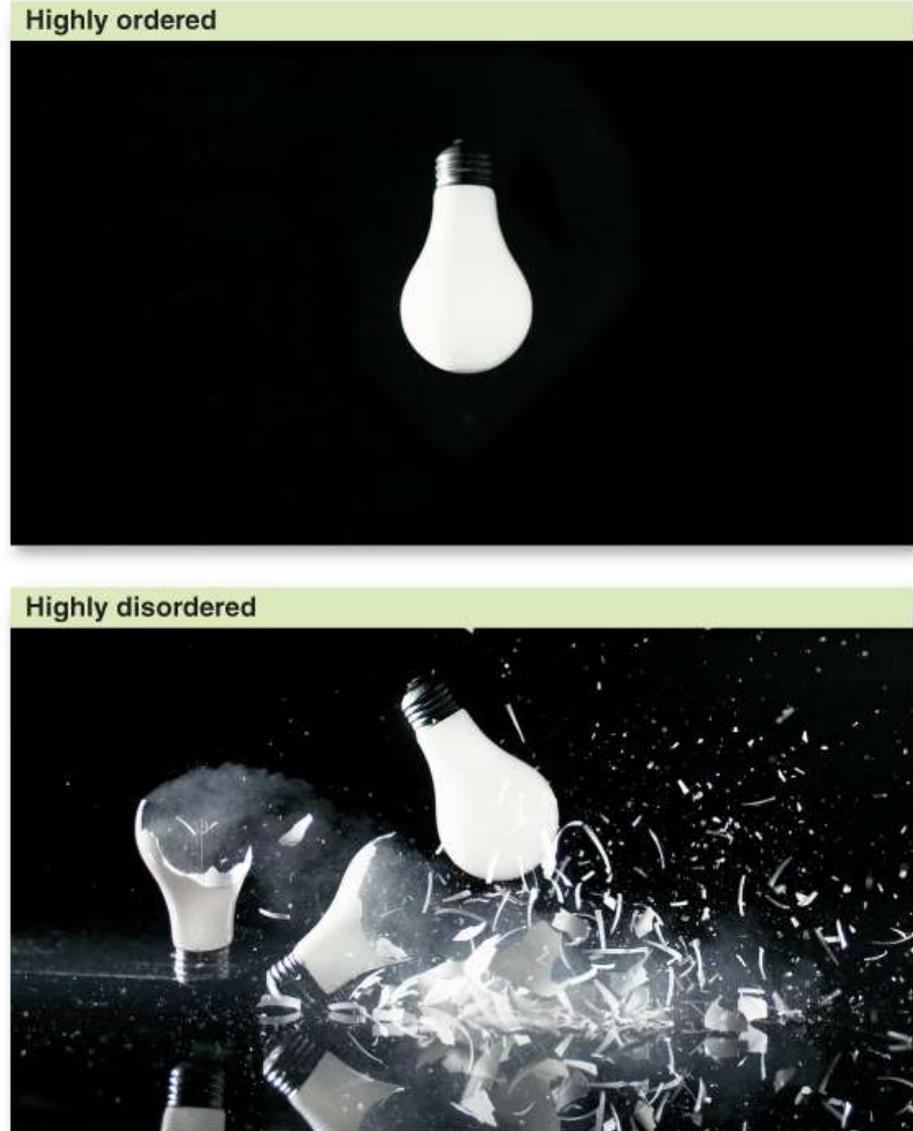
# Energy Transformations Are Inefficient

**Entropy** is a measure of the randomness, or disorder, of the universe.



# Energy Transformations Are Inefficient

Since heat energy is constantly being lost to the universe, and heat energy is disordered, the entropy of the universe is increasing. This is called the **second law of thermodynamics**.



# Clicker Question #1



To the right, the same light bulb is shown at three different stages of falling (1, 2, and 3). Assume stage 2 is the moment *just before* impact, and stage 3 is just after impact. At what stage is potential energy the highest? At what stage is entropy the highest?

- A. 2; 3
- B. 1; 2
- C. 3; 1
- D. 3; 2
- E. 1; 3





# Clicker Question #1

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- D. 3; 2
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# 4.1 Mastering Concepts

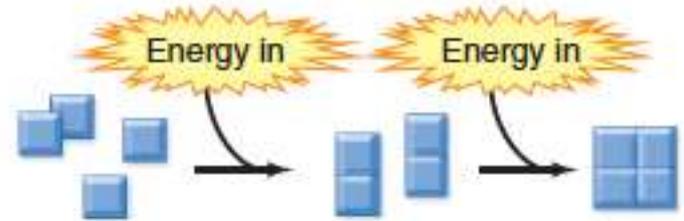


Give an example of how your body has both potential and kinetic energy.

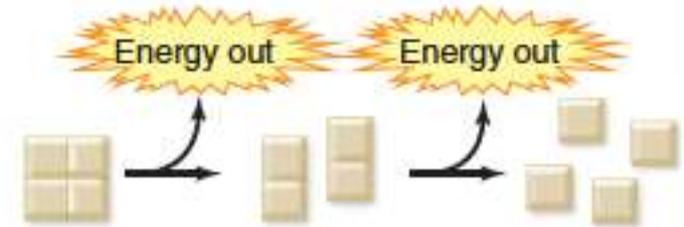
# Chemical Reactions Sustain Life

**Metabolism** includes all chemical reactions in cells, including those that build new molecules and those that break down existing molecules.

Building complex molecules out of simple parts



Breaking complex molecules into simple parts

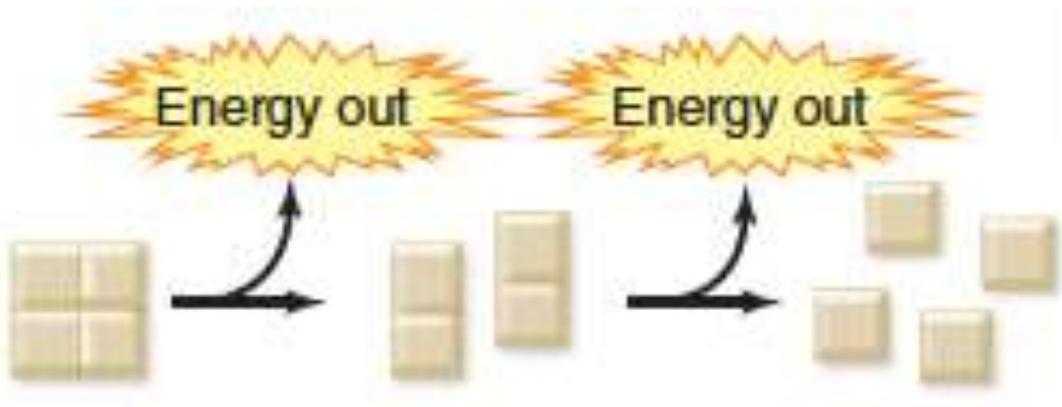


# Metabolism

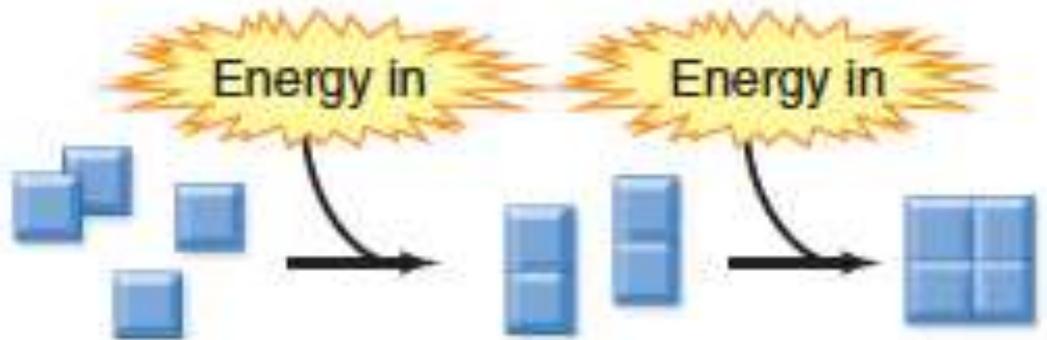
## Metabolic reactions:

- Chemical reactions in organism

## Two Types of *Metabolic* Reactions:



**Catabolic** = breaks down molecules



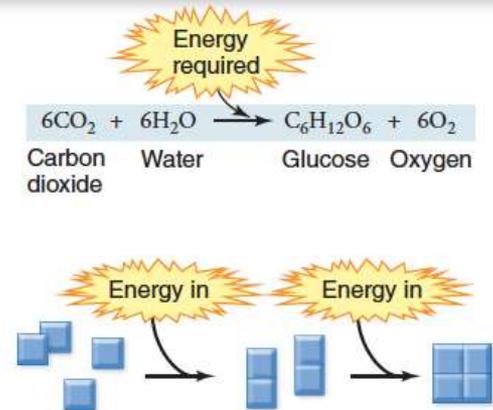
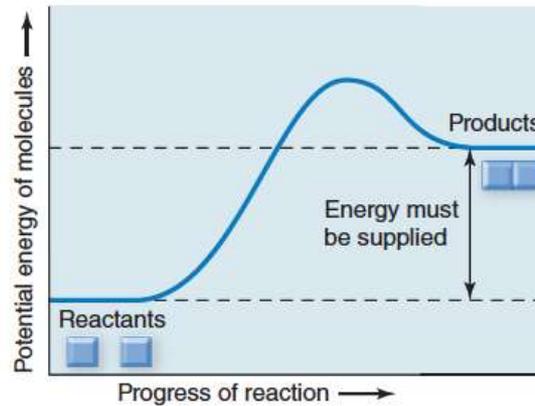
**Anabolic** = builds up molecules

# Chemical Reactions Sustain Life

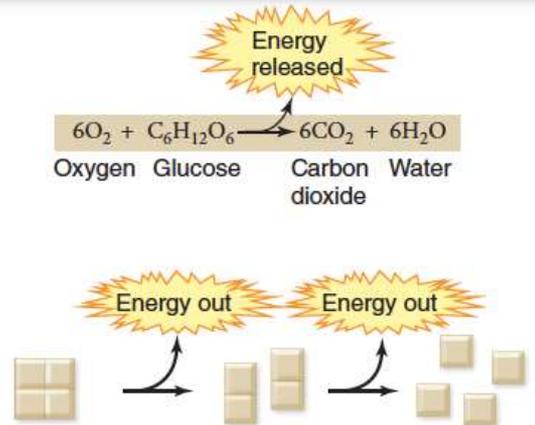
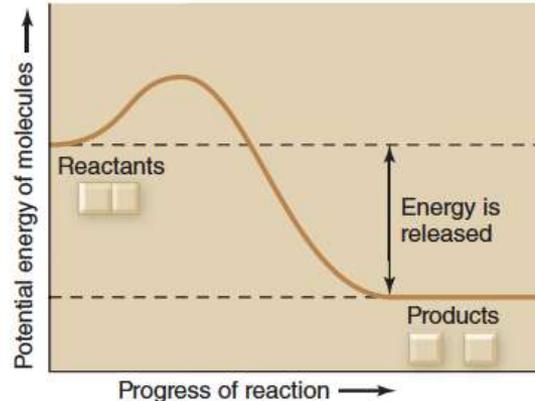
Chemical reactions can also be classified according to energy requirements.

**Endergonic-** require energy  
**Exergonic-** release energy

Endergonic reactions require energy input; products contain more energy than reactants



Exergonic reactions release energy; products contain less energy than reactants

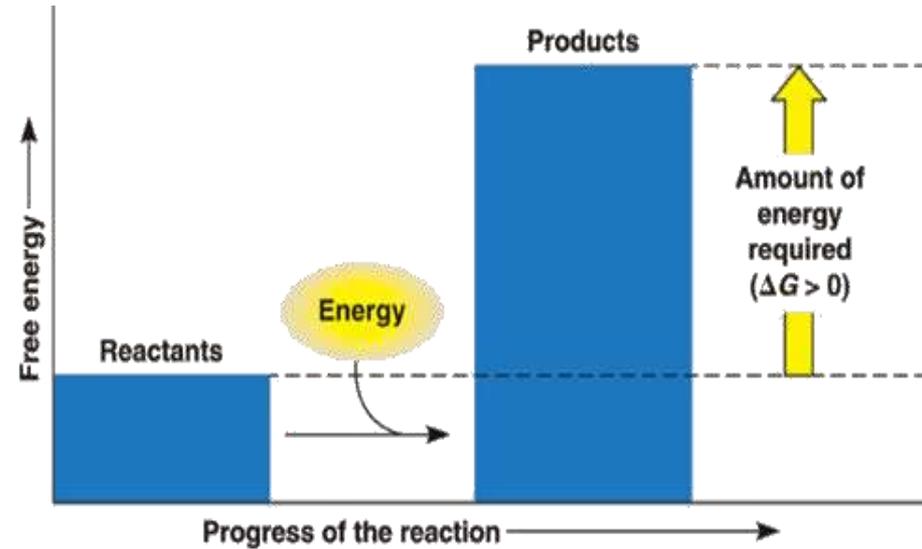
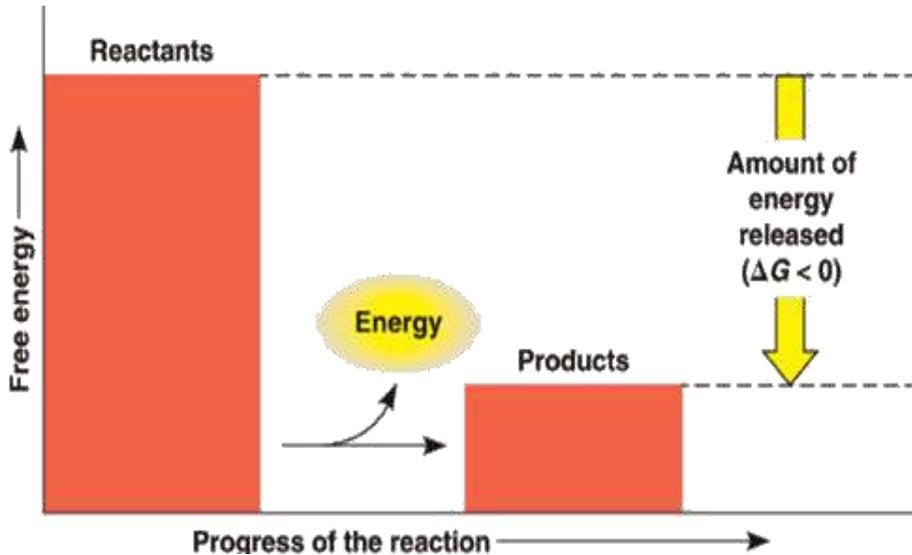


# Free Energy

## Energy of a system

- Gibb' s free energy = energy available to cause change
- difference in free energy ( $\Delta G$ ) - predict if rxn will occur
- system – moves to more stable (lower energy)
  - If  $\Delta G$  (-),
    - release energy
    - process spontaneous
  - If  $\Delta G$  (+) or 0,
    - consume energy
    - process non-spontaneous

# Chemical Reactions

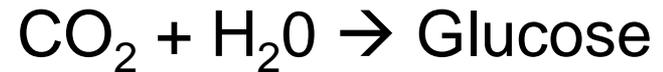


$-\Delta G$

release free energy

spontaneous

- Exergonic reaction



$+\Delta G$  (or 0)

intake free energy

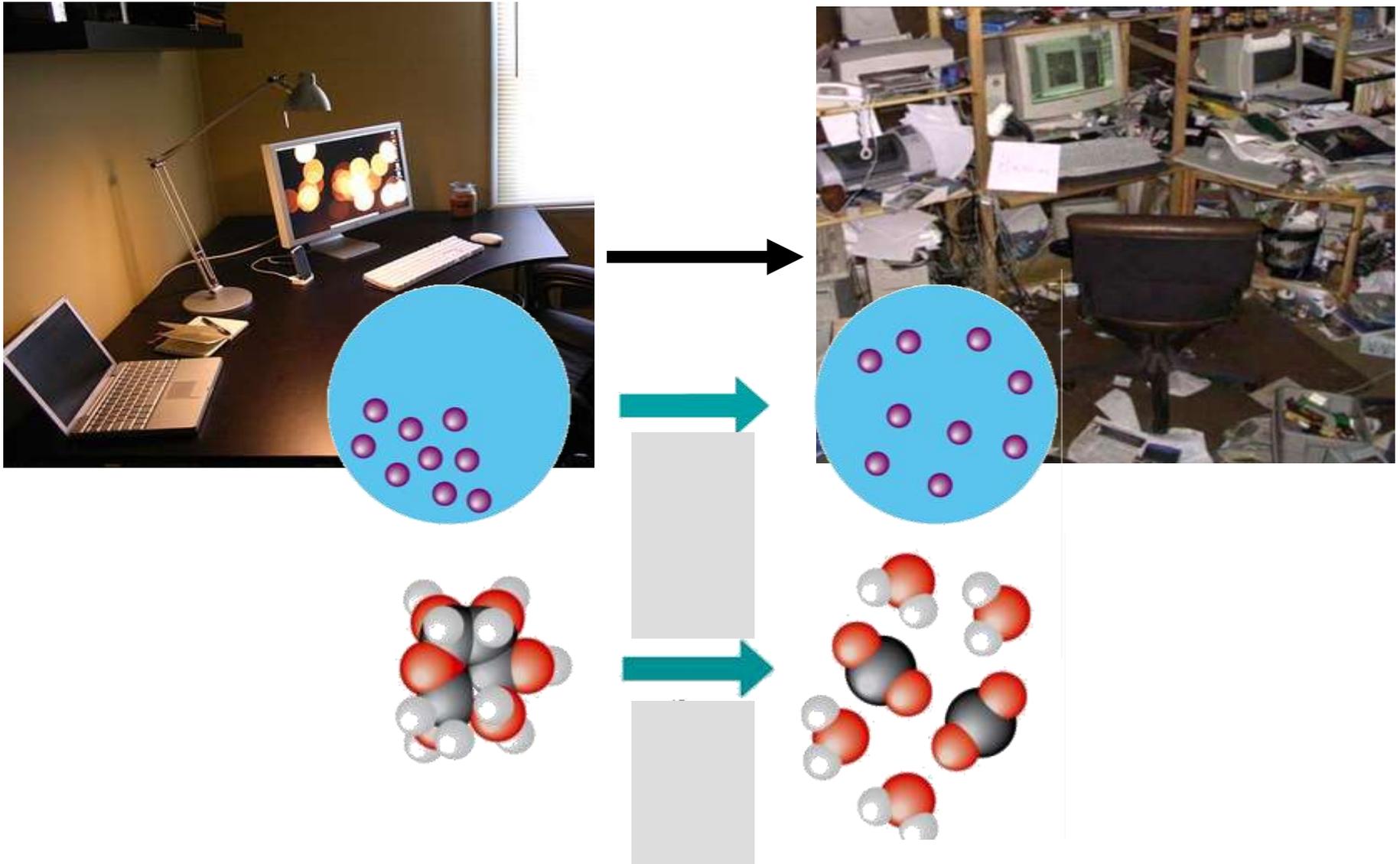
non-spontaneous

- Endergonic reaction

# Chemical Reactions

## Chemical Reactions:

- Like home offices – tend toward disorder



# Chemical Reactions

## Chemical Reactions:

- Endergonic – energy required to complete reaction
- Exergonic – energy given off



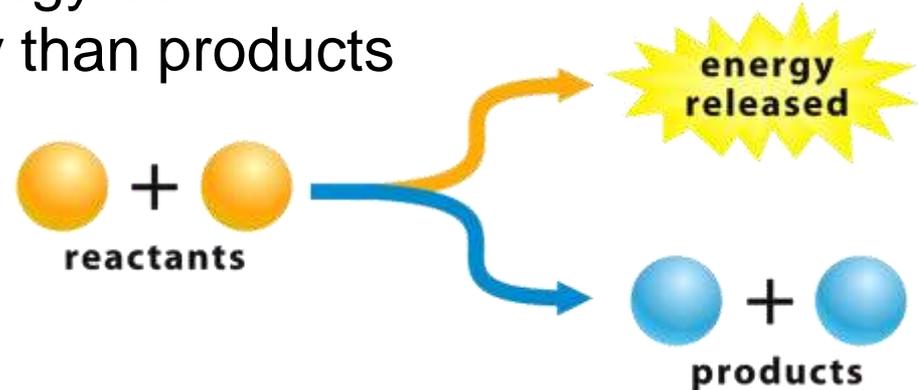
Exergonic  
→  
←  
Endergonic



# Chemical Reactions

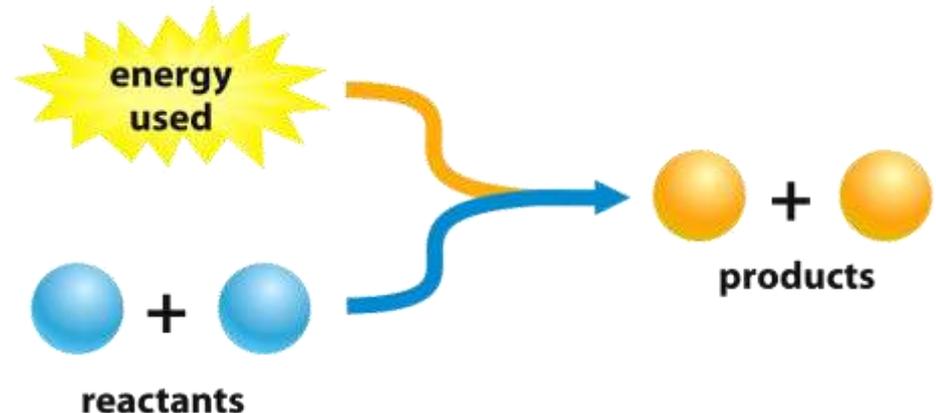
## 1. **Exergonic** reactions: “Energy out”

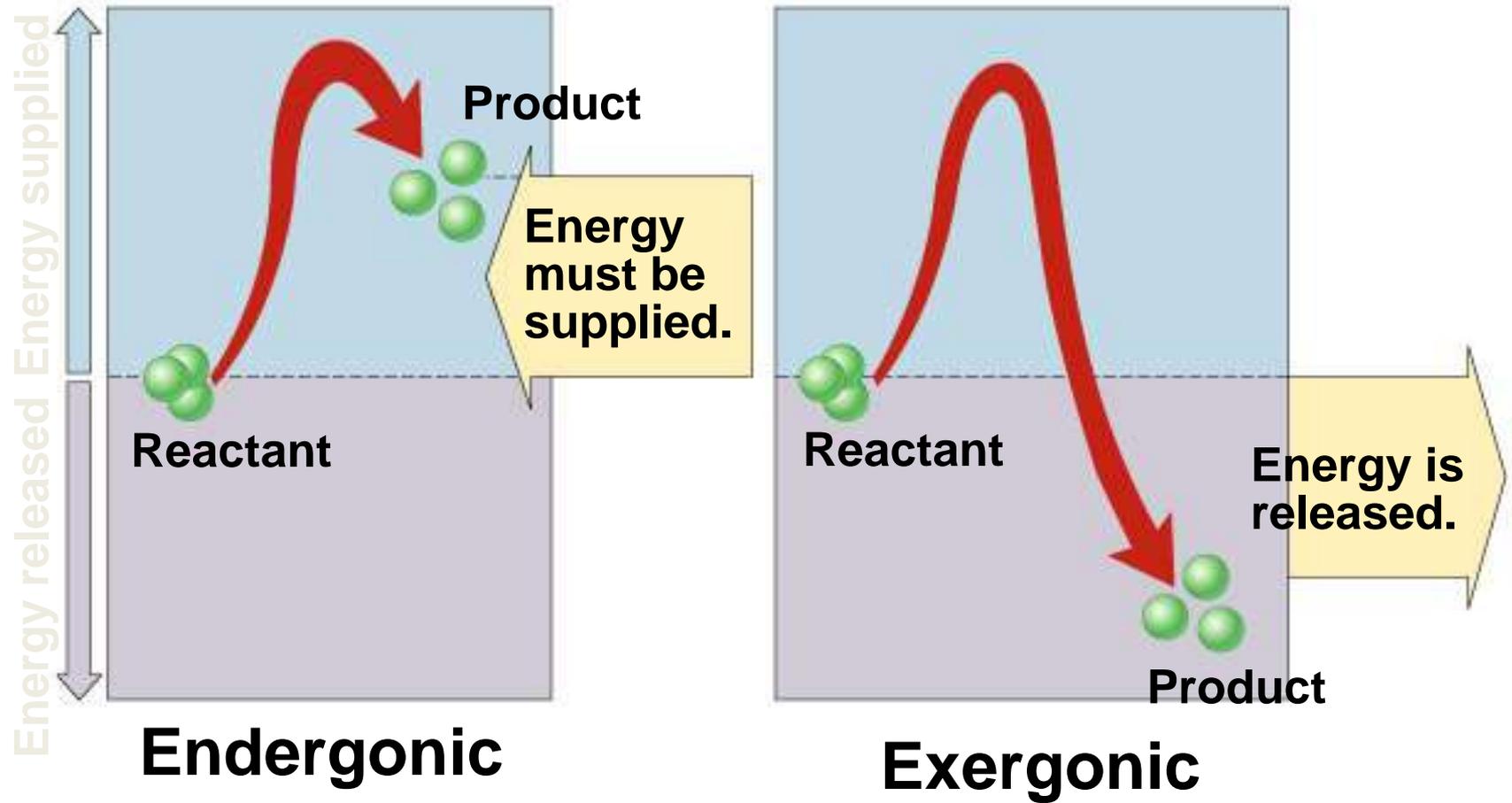
- Reactants have more energy than products
- Reaction releases energy



## 2. **Endergonic** reactions: “Energy in”

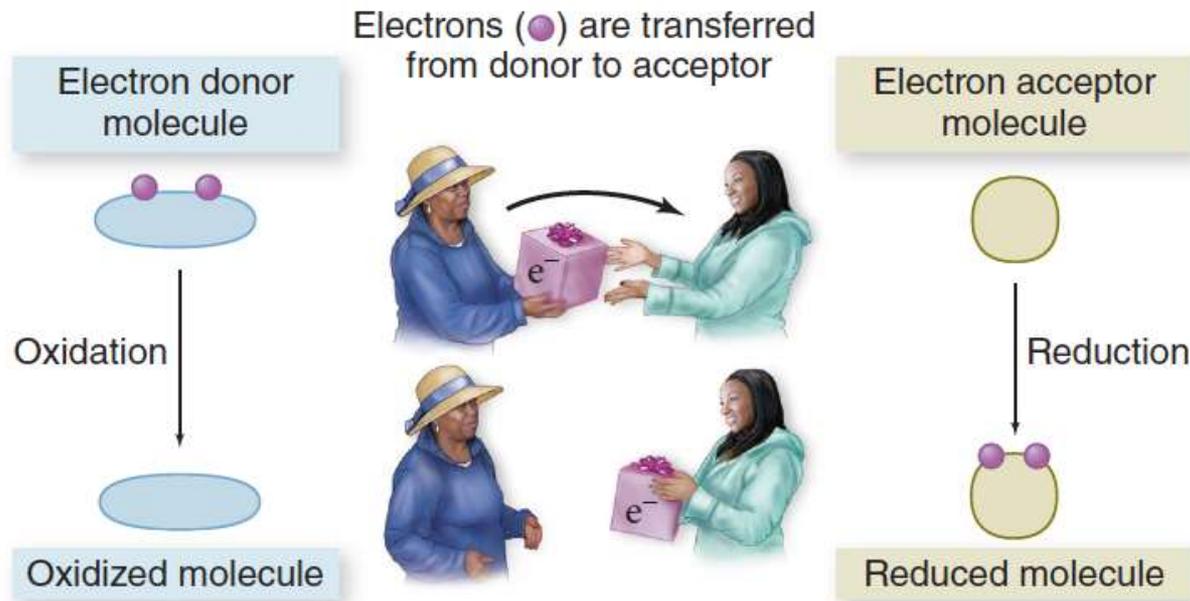
- Products have more energy than reactants
- Requires influx of energy »





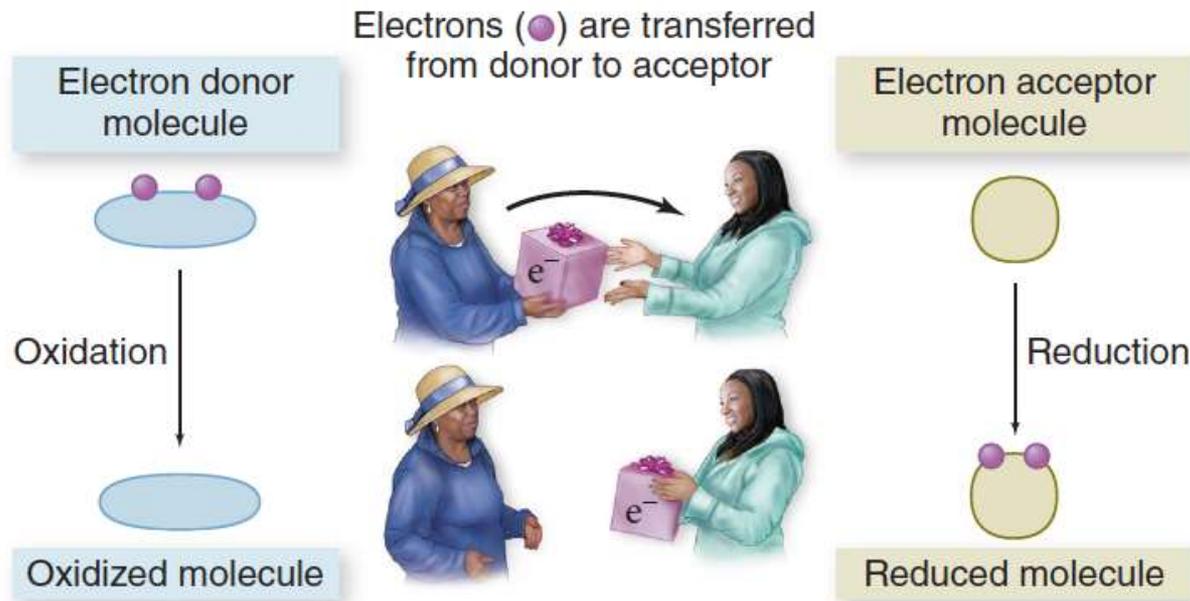
# Chemical Reactions Sustain Life

Most energy transformations in organisms occur in **oxidation-reduction** reactions by simply transferring electrons from one molecule to another



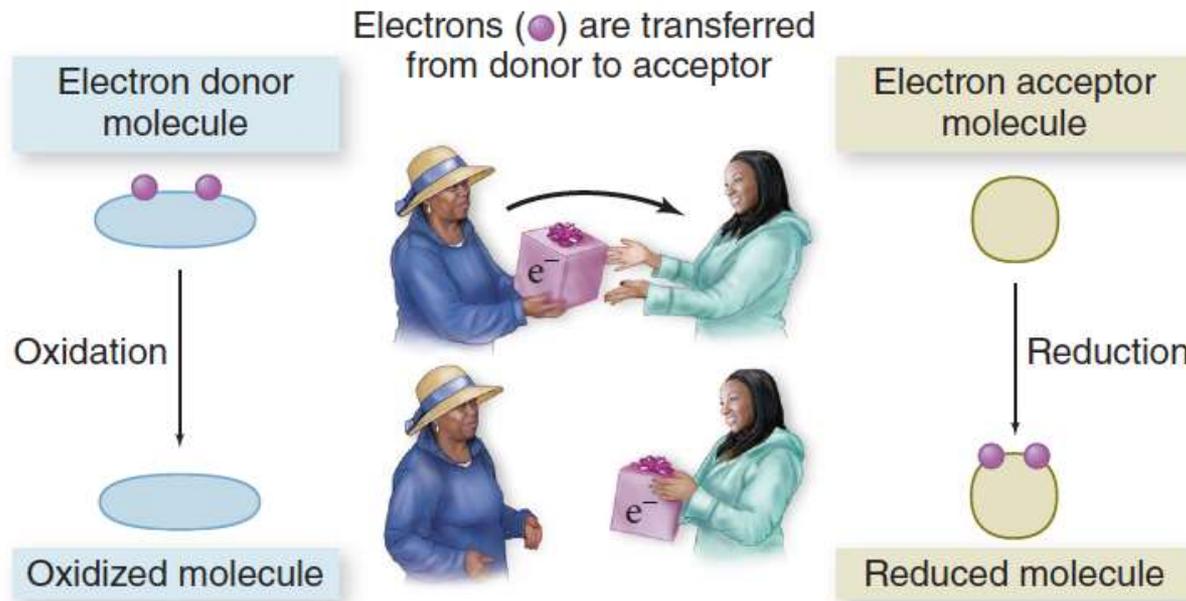
# Chemical Reactions Sustain Life

**Oxidation** is the loss of electrons from an atom or molecule; these reactions release energy. “The Giver”



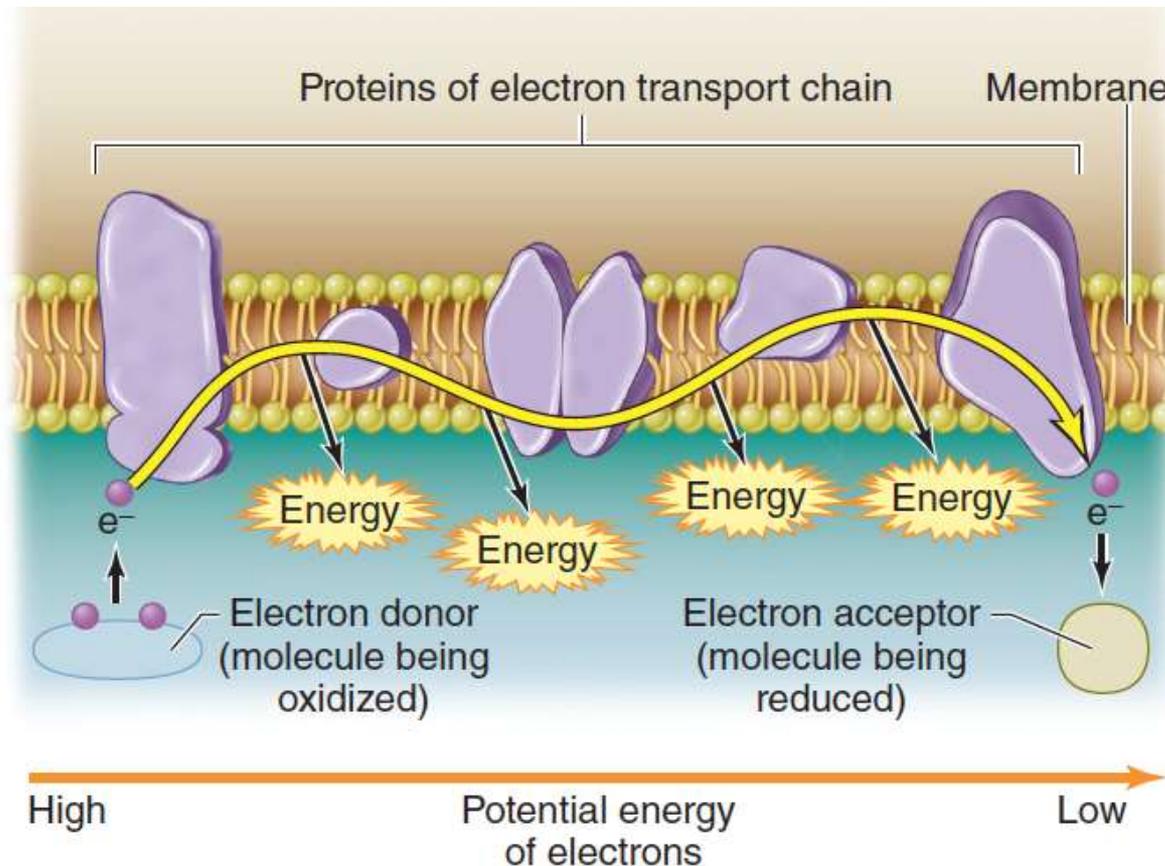
# Chemical Reactions Sustain Life

**Reduction** is the gain of electrons (and whatever energy contained in the electrons) by an atom or molecule. These reactions require energy. (The Receiver)



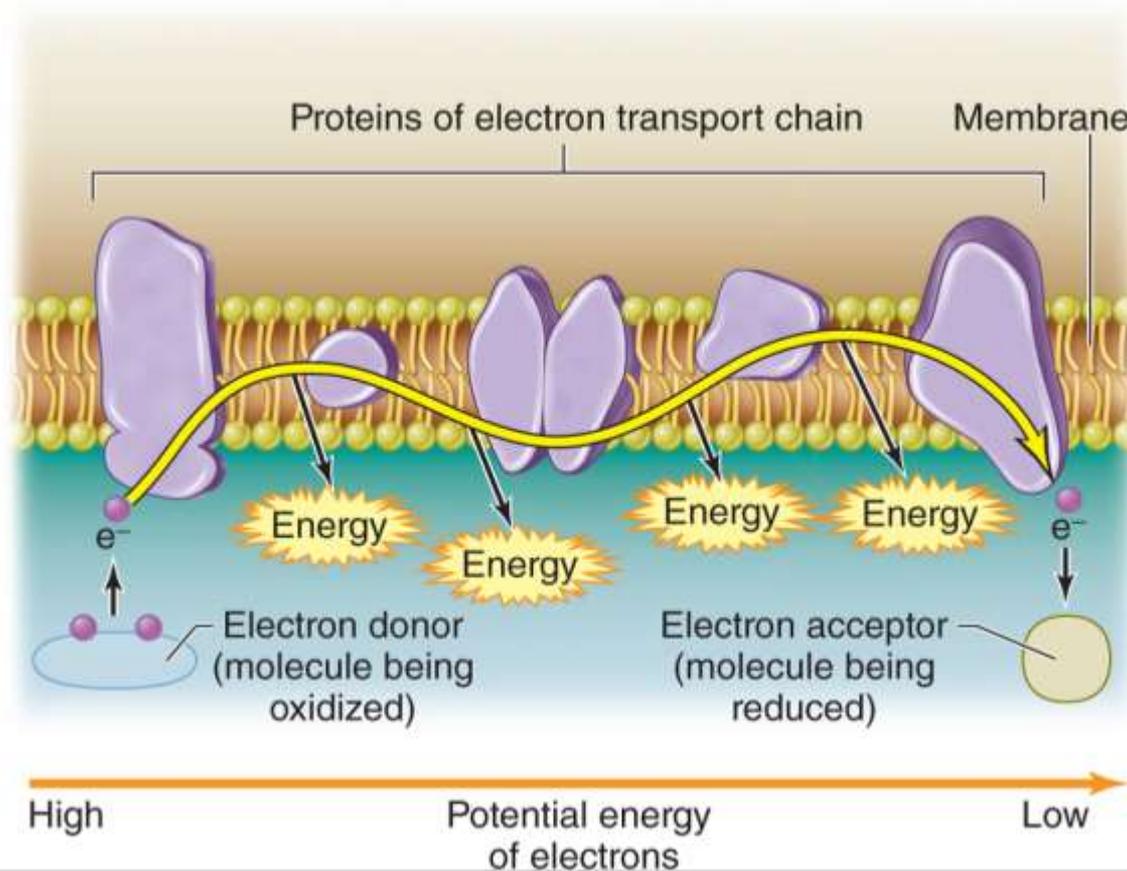
# Chemical Reactions Sustain Life

An **electron transport chain** is a series of membrane proteins participating in sequential oxidation-reduction reactions. Energy is released at each step. (bucket brigade)



# Chemical Reactions Sustain Life

Photosynthesis and cellular respiration both use electron transport chains.

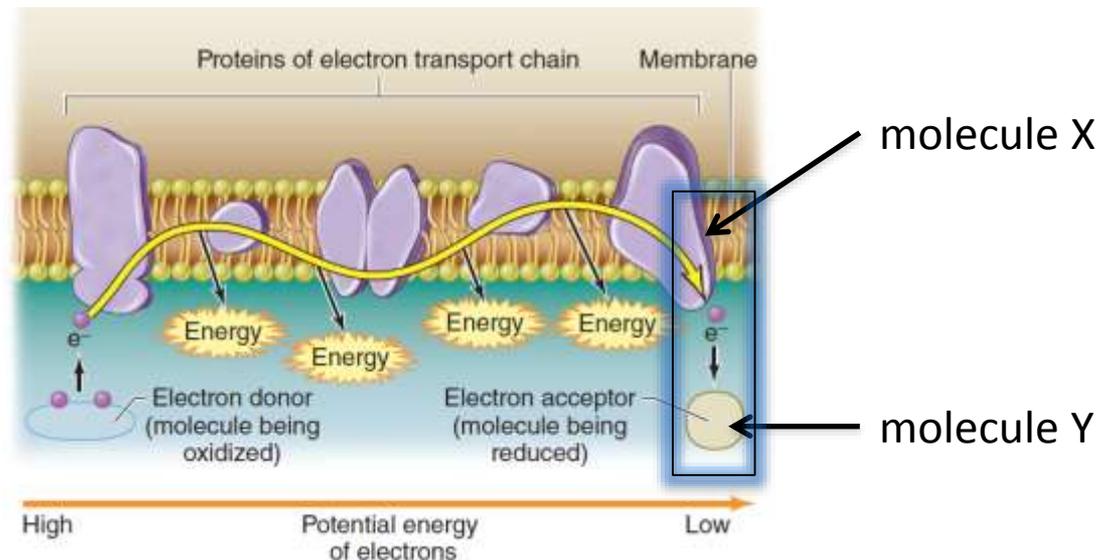




## Clicker Question #2

In the reaction at the end of the electron transport chain, molecule X is being \_\_\_ and molecule Y is being \_\_\_\_.

- A. oxidized ... reduced
- B. reduced ... oxidized



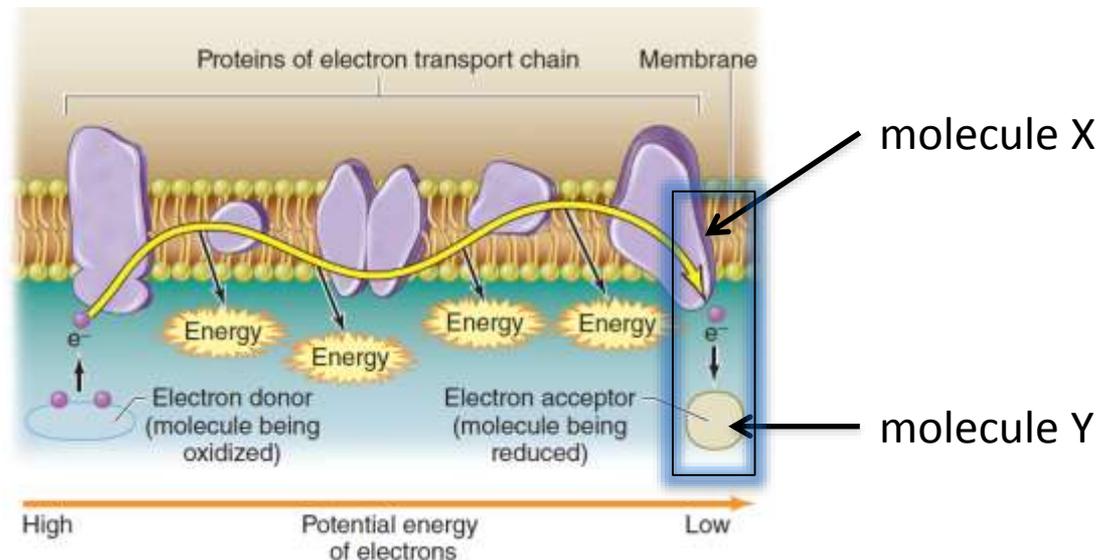


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A. oxidized ... reduced

B. reduced ... oxidized



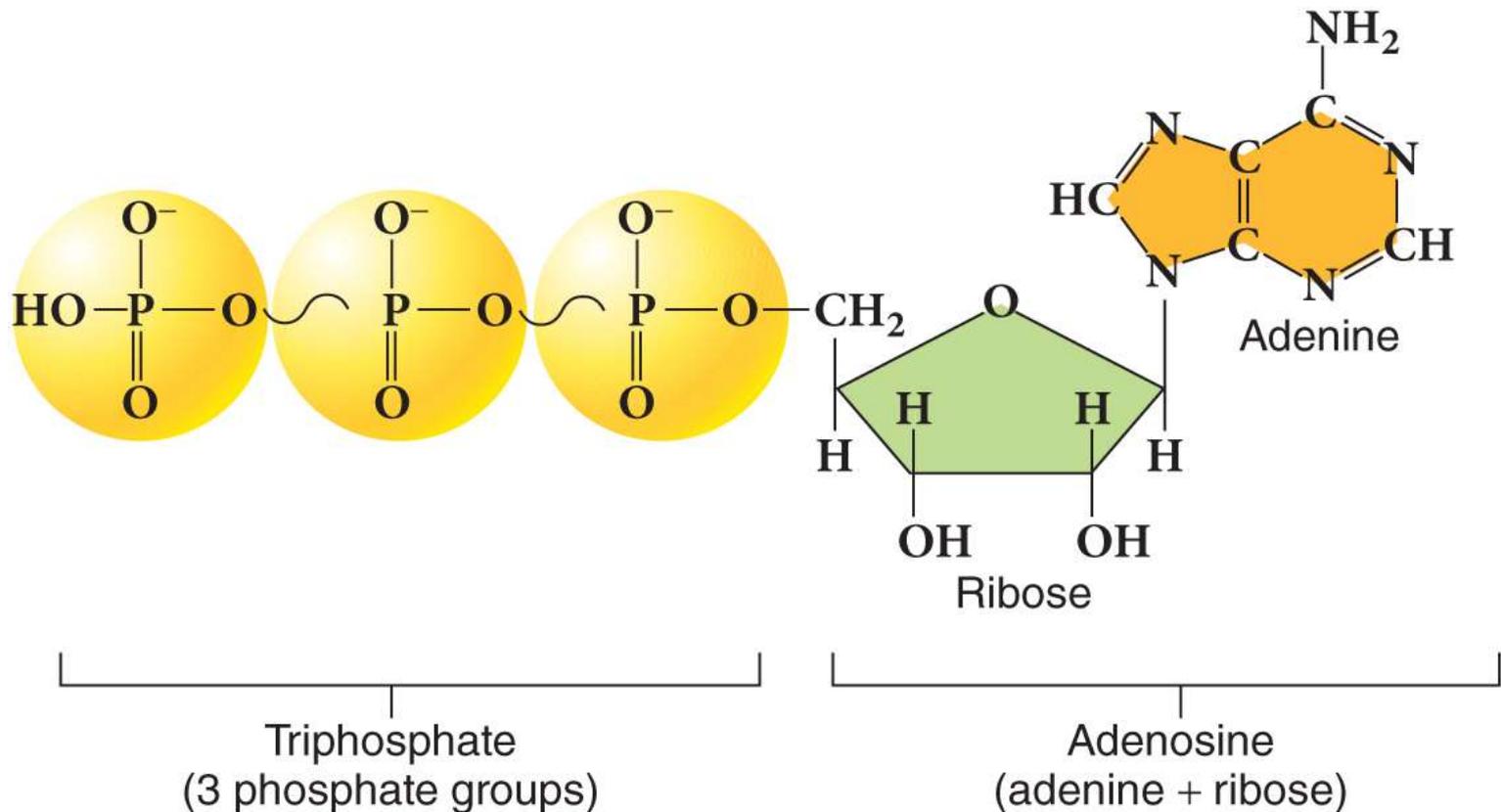
## 4.2 Mastering Concepts



What are oxidation and reduction, and why are they always linked?

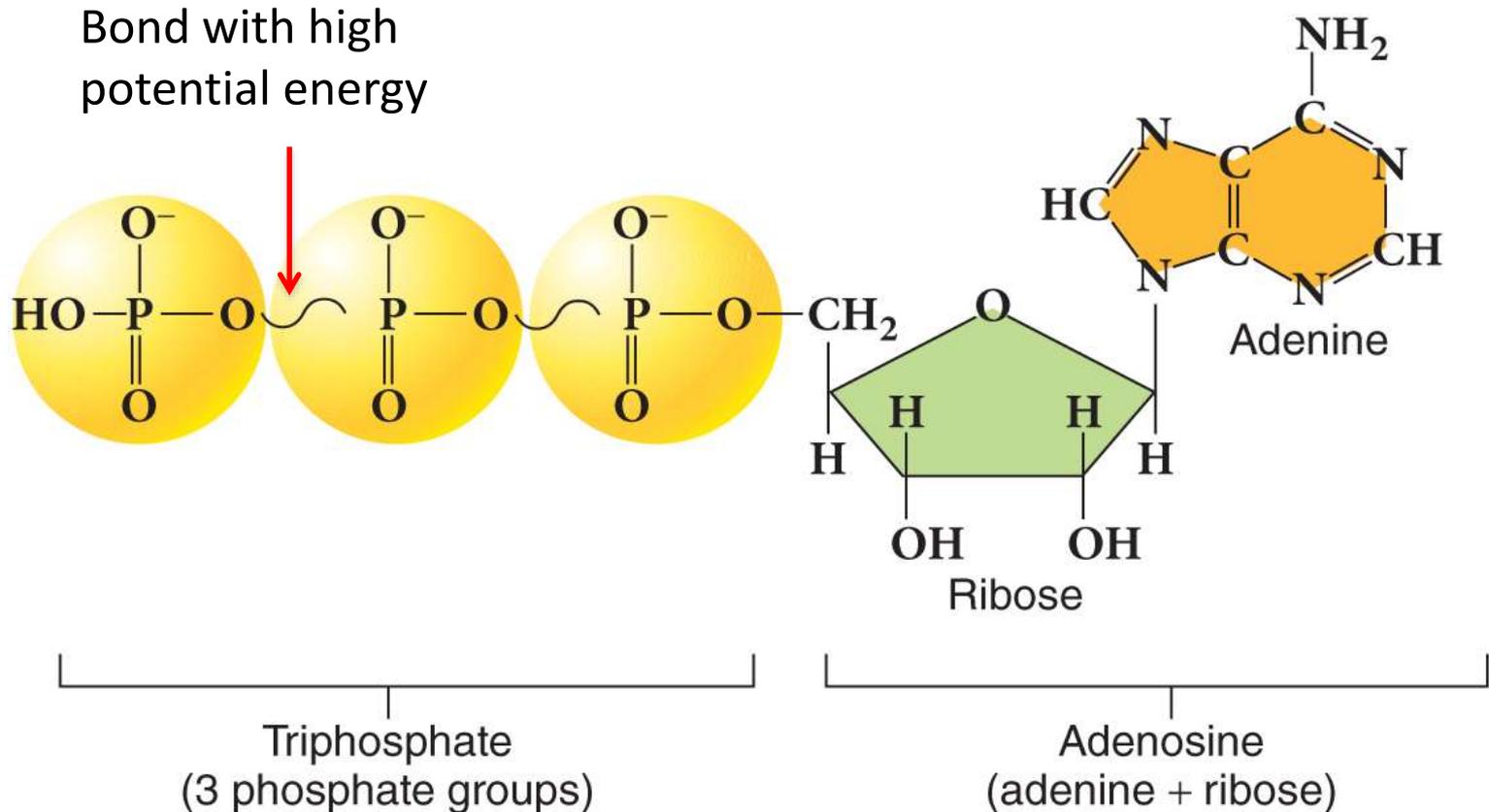
# ATP Is the Cellular Energy Currency

Adenosine triphosphate (**ATP**) is a nucleotide that temporarily stores energy.



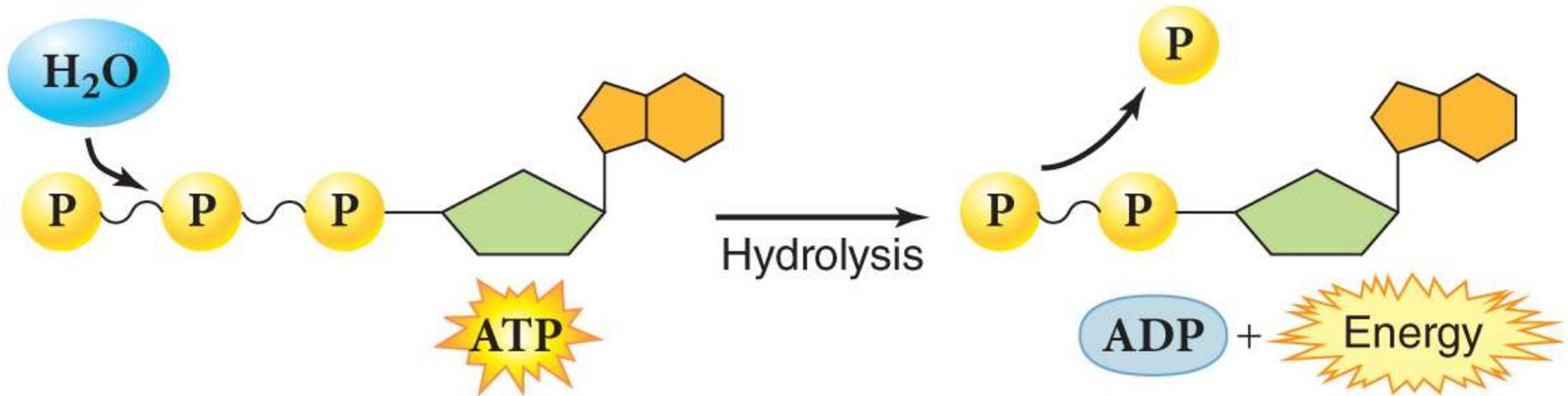
# ATP Is the Cellular Energy Currency

All cells rely on the potential energy stored in ATP to power chemical reactions.



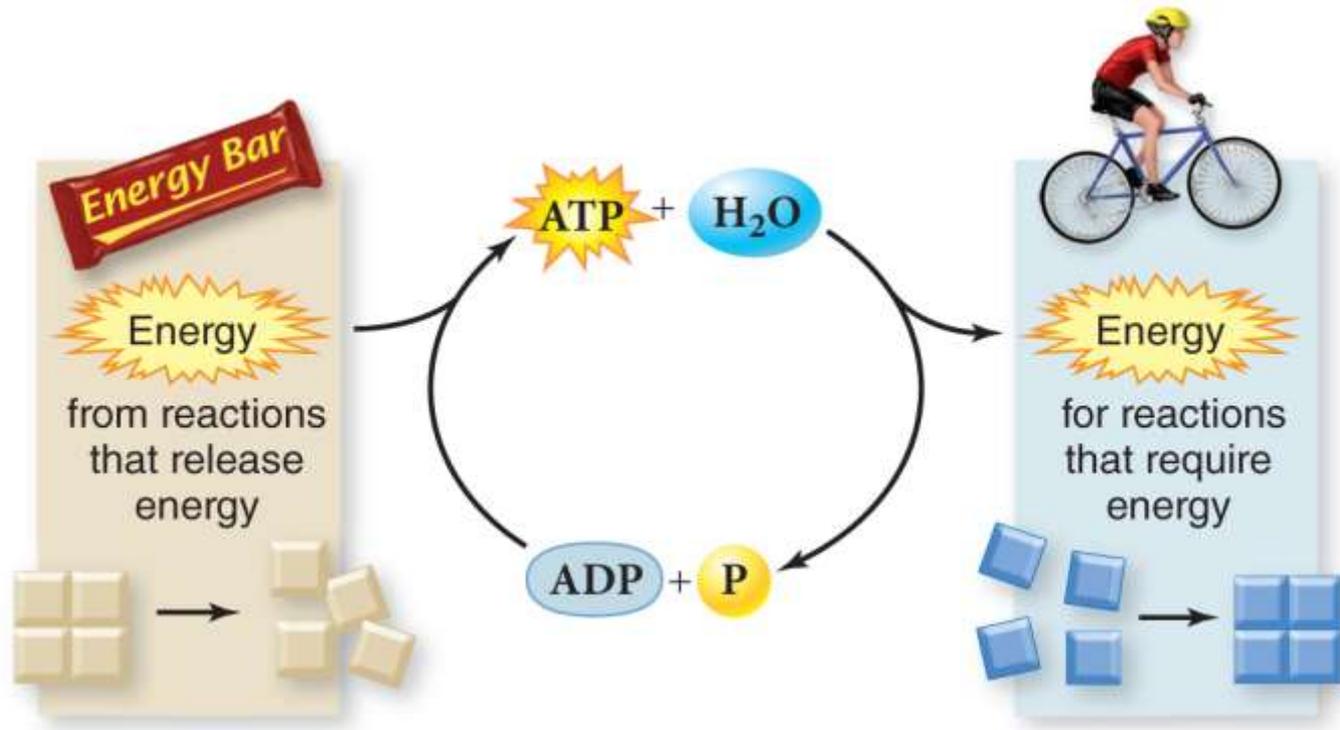
# ATP Is the Cellular Energy Currency

Removing the endmost phosphate group by hydrolysis releases the potential energy stored in ATP. The cell uses this energy to do work.



# ATP Is the Cellular Energy Currency

ATP must then be reformed. Mitochondria release energy from food, producing ATP from ADP.



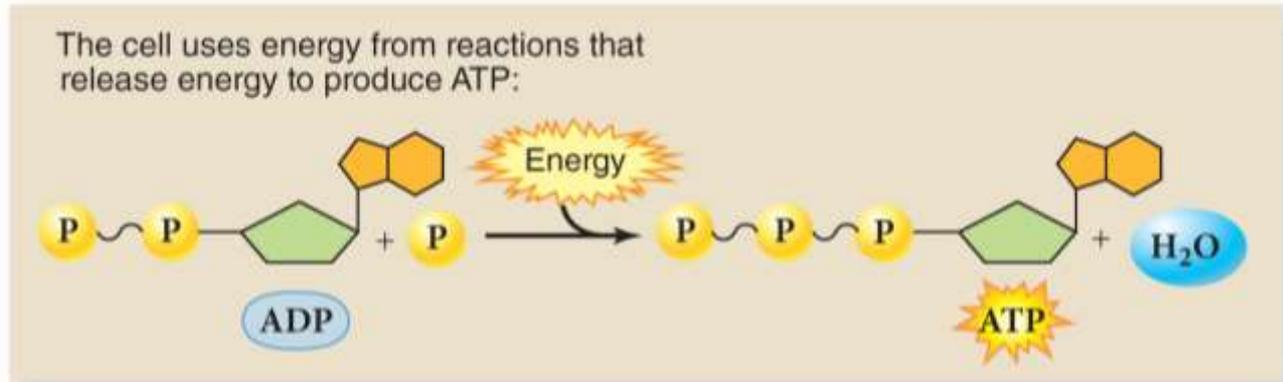
# Cellular Work

- A cell does three main kinds of work
  - Mechanical
  - Transport
  - Chemical
- **Energy coupling** is a key feature in the way cells manage their energy resources to do this work
- ATP powers cellular work by coupling exergonic reactions to endergonic reactions

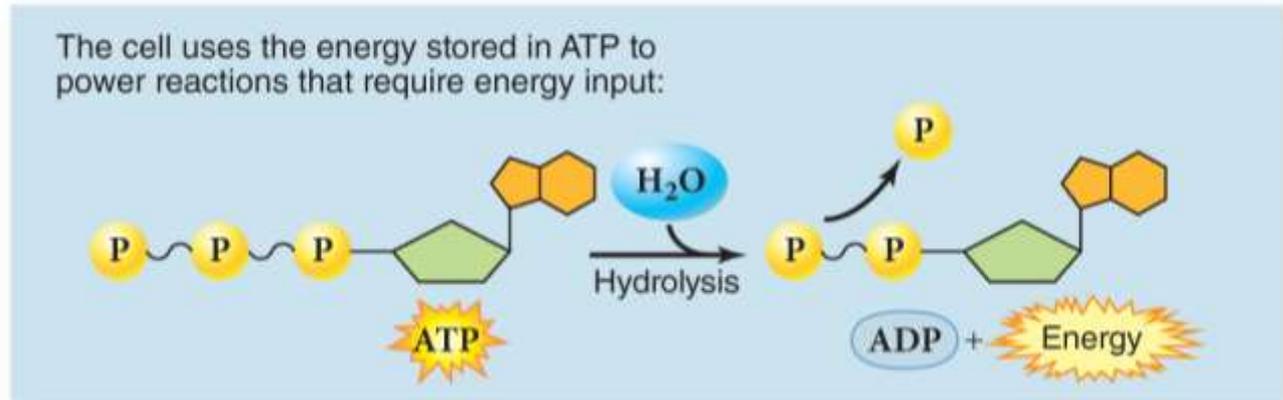
# ATP Is the Cellular Energy Currency

*ATP formation* is coupled with exergonic reactions.  
*ATP breakdown* is coupled with endergonic reactions.

Producing ATP

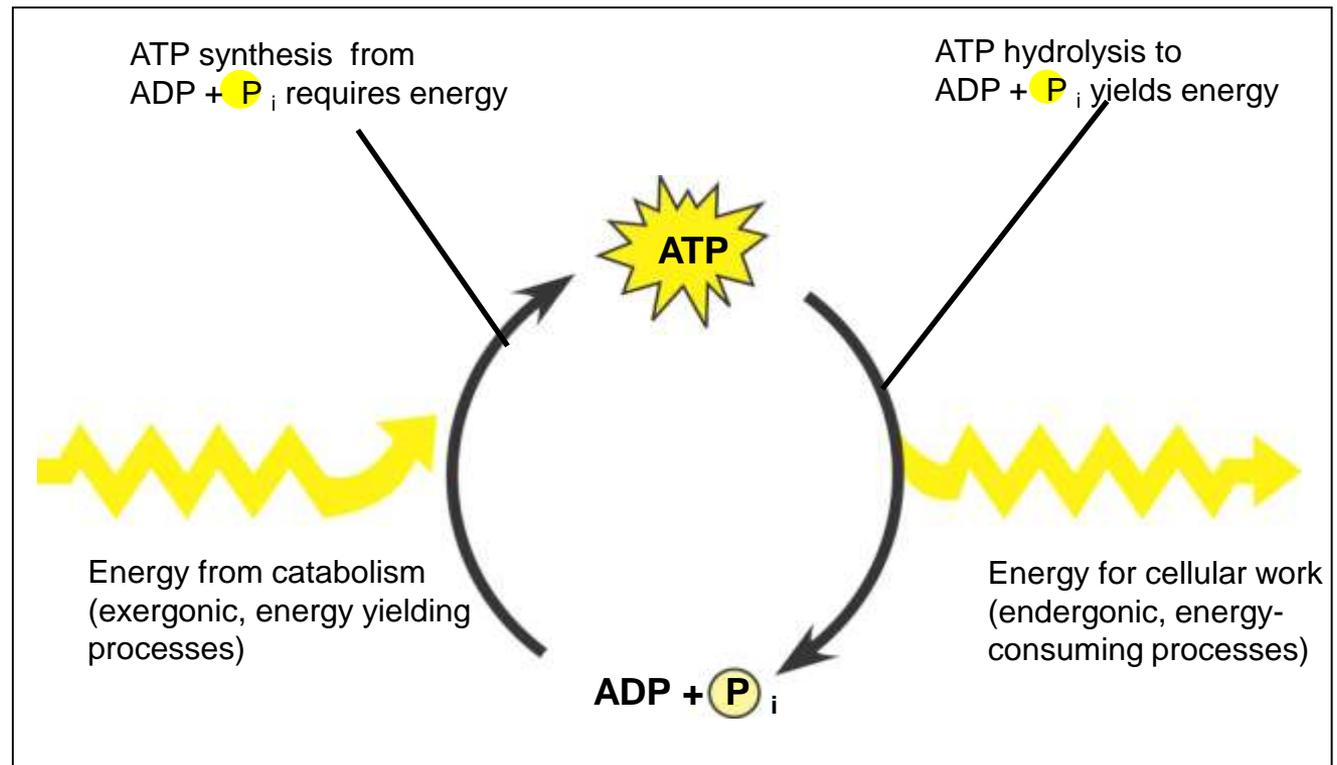


“Spending” ATP



# Energy Coupling - ATP / ADP Cycle

- Releasing the third phosphate from ATP to make ADP generates energy (exergonic):
- Linking the phosphates together requires energy - so making ATP from ADP and a third phosphate requires energy (endergonic),
- Catabolic pathways drive the regeneration of ATP from ADP and phosphate



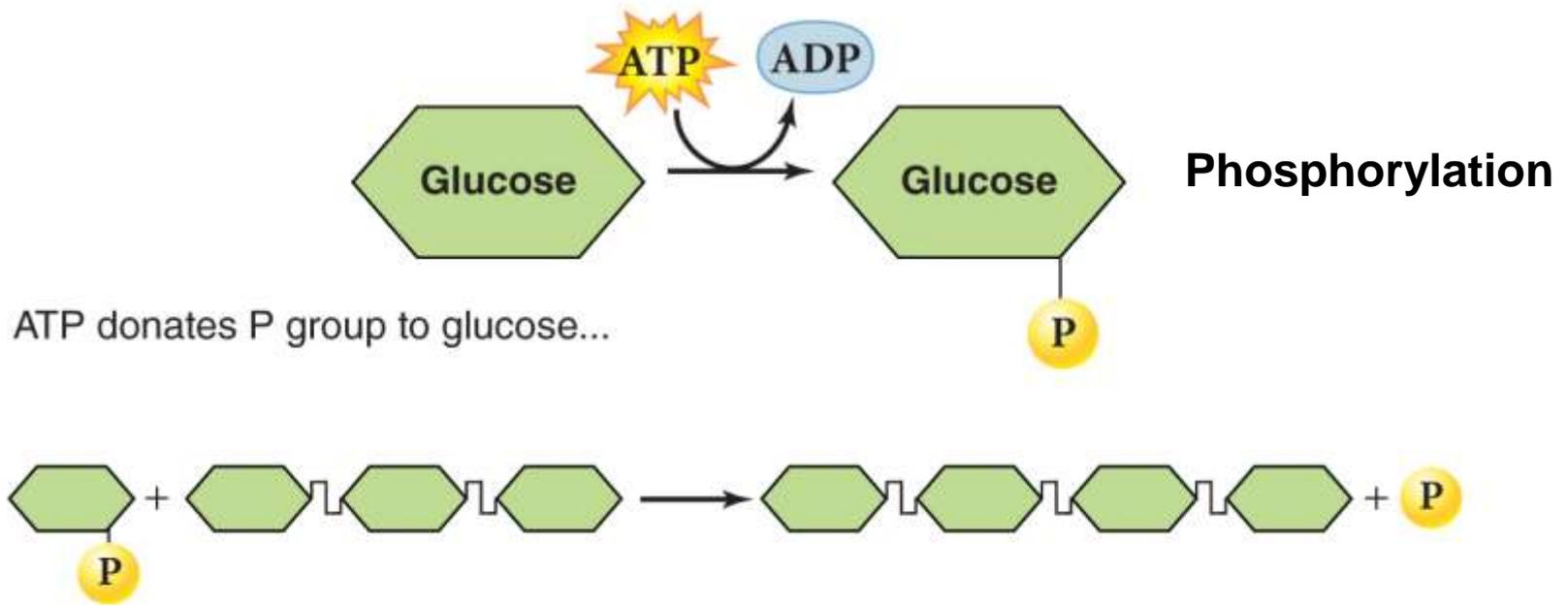
# How ATP Performs Work

- ATP drives endergonic reactions by **phosphorylation**, transferring a phosphate group to some other molecule, such as a reactant
- The recipient molecule is now phosphorylated
- The three types of cellular work (mechanical, transport, and chemical) are powered by the hydrolysis of ATP

# ATP Hydrolysis Is Coupled with Endergonic Reactions

a. ATP energizes target molecule, making it more likely to bond with other molecules.

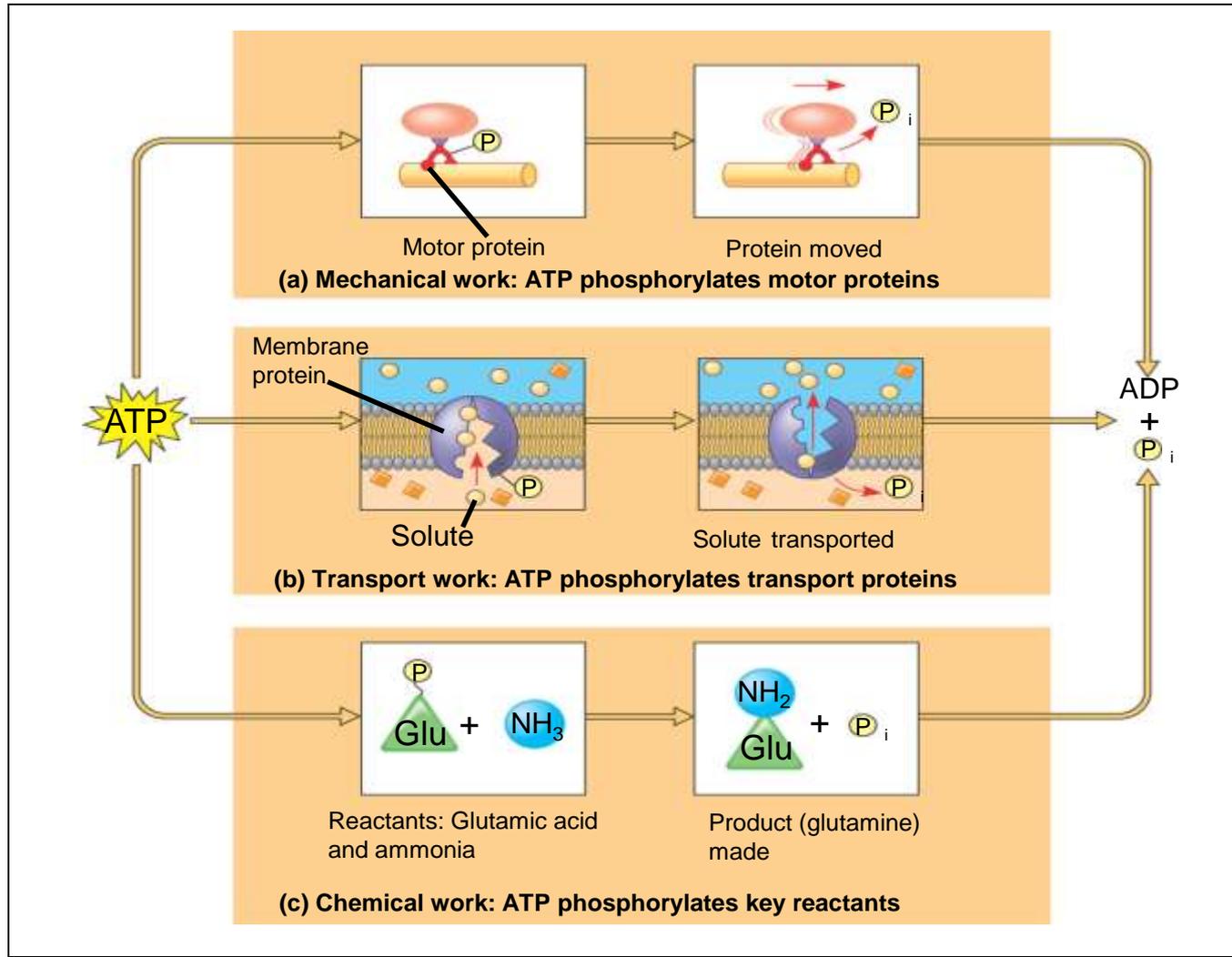
E.g., ATP provides the energy to build large molecules out of small subunits



... glucose + P then reacts with short polysaccharide to build longer polysaccharide

# How ATP Performs Work

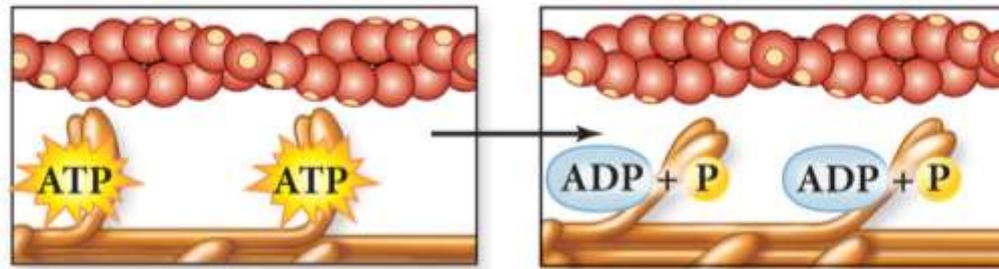
- ATP drives endergonic reactions by phosphorylation, transferring a phosphate to other molecules - hydrolysis of ATP



# ATP Hydrolysis Is Coupled with Energy-Requiring Reactions

b. ATP donates a phosphate group that changes the shape of the target molecule.

E.g., ATP binding changes shape of proteins involved in muscle contraction

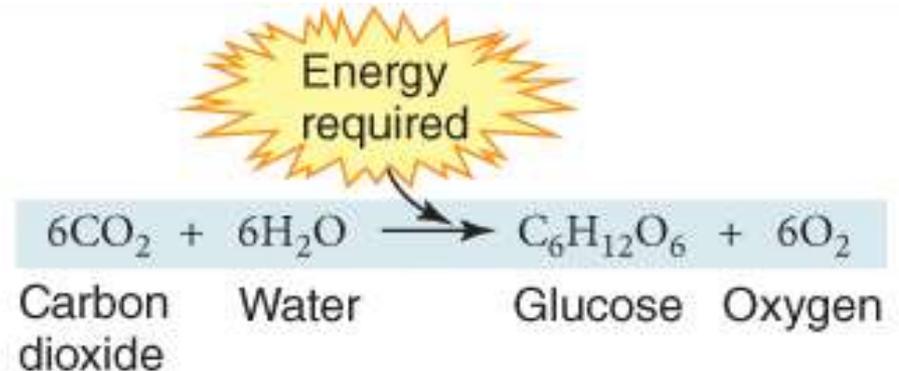




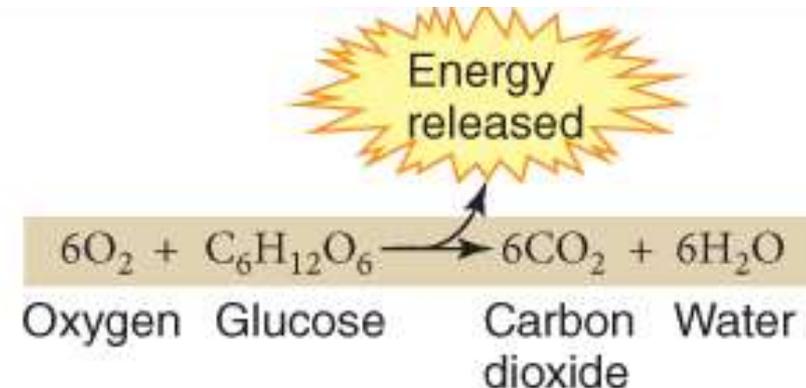
# Clicker Question #3

Which reaction is likely coupled with hydrolysis of ATP?

A.



B.

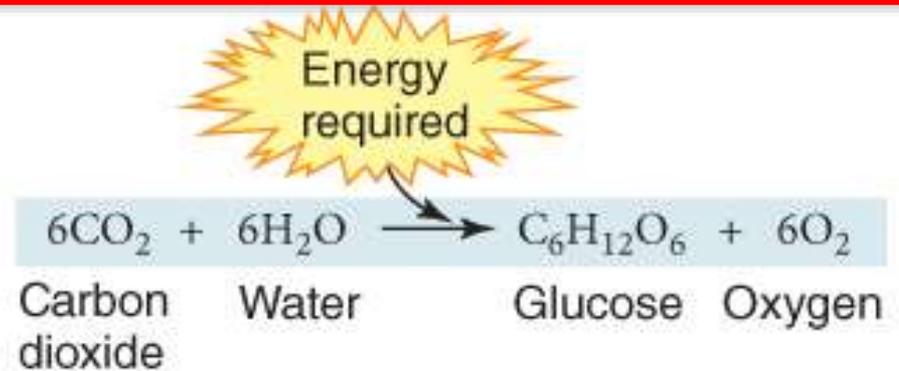




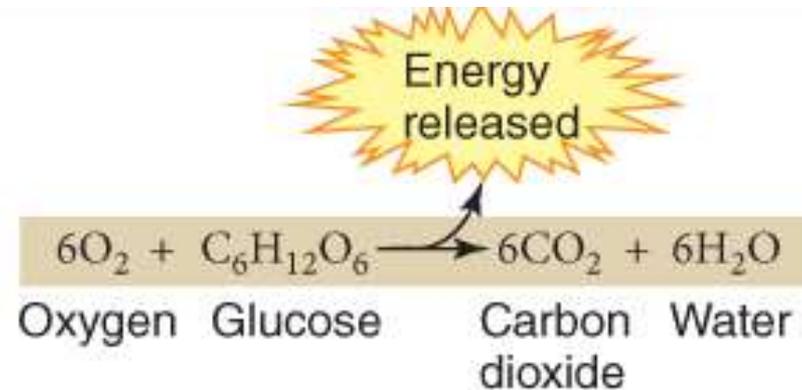
# Clicker Question #3

Which reaction is likely coupled with hydrolysis of ATP?

A.



B.



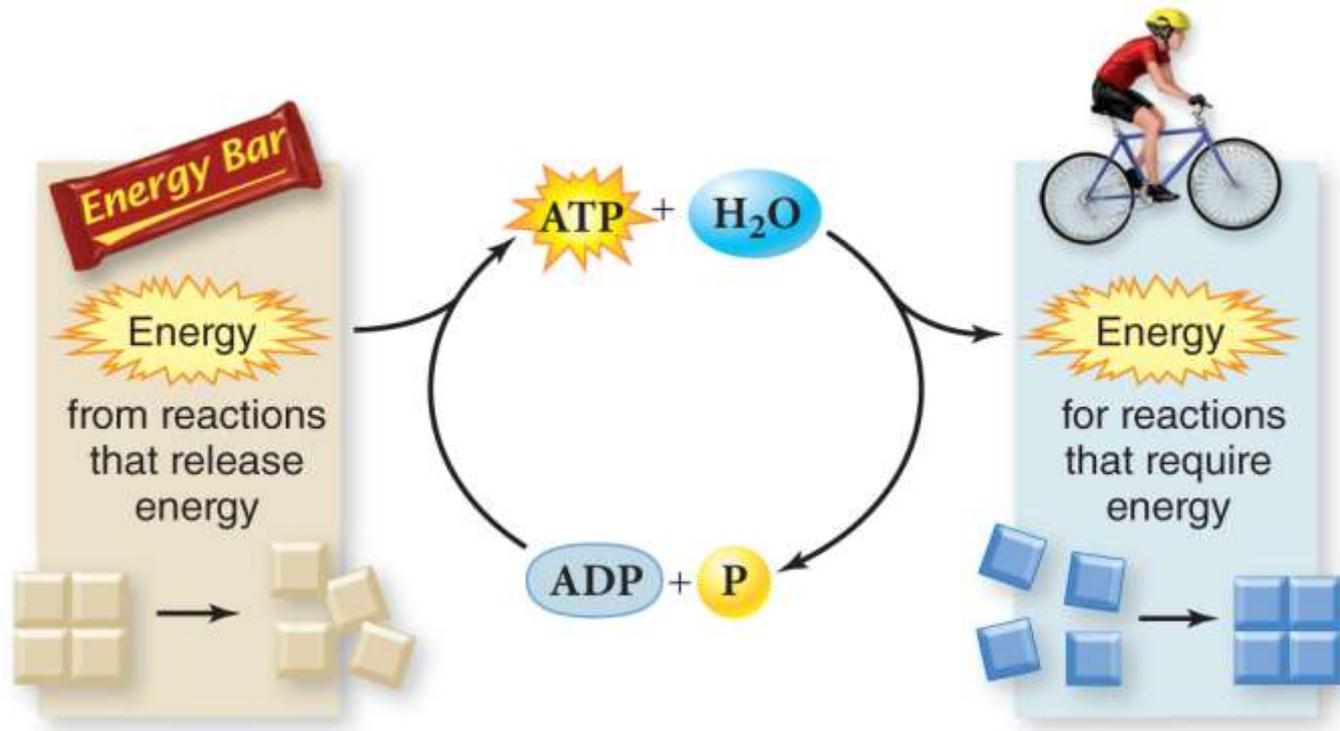
# 4.3 Mastering Concepts



Describe the relationships among energy-requiring reactions, ATP hydrolysis, and cellular respiration.

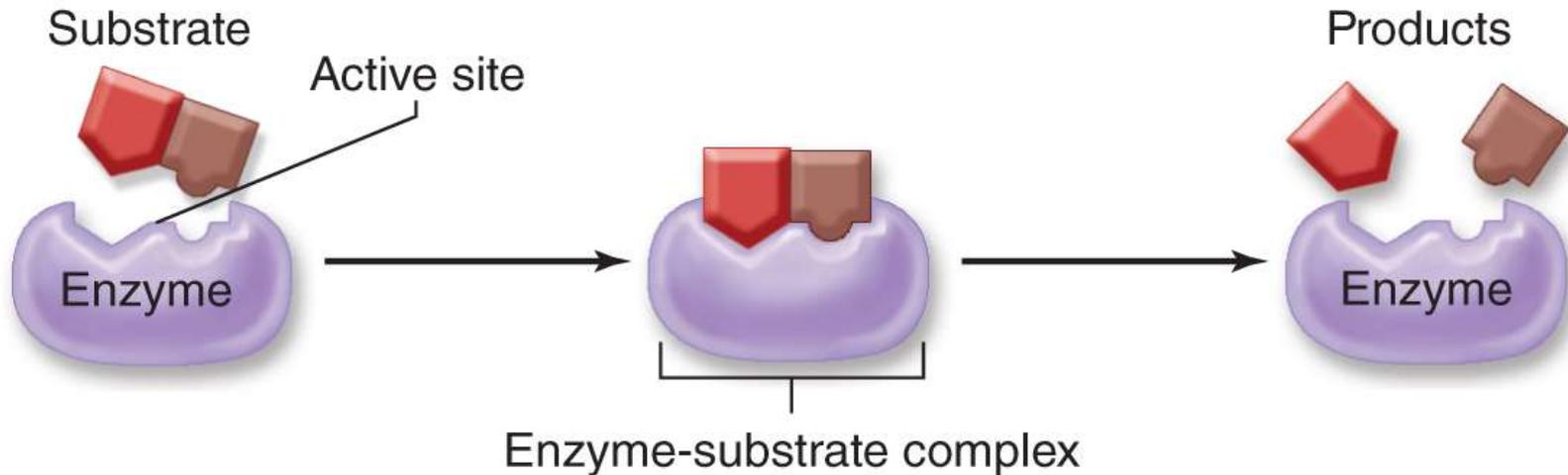
# Enzymes Speed Biochemical Reactions

Chemical reactions in cells must occur very quickly to sustain life.



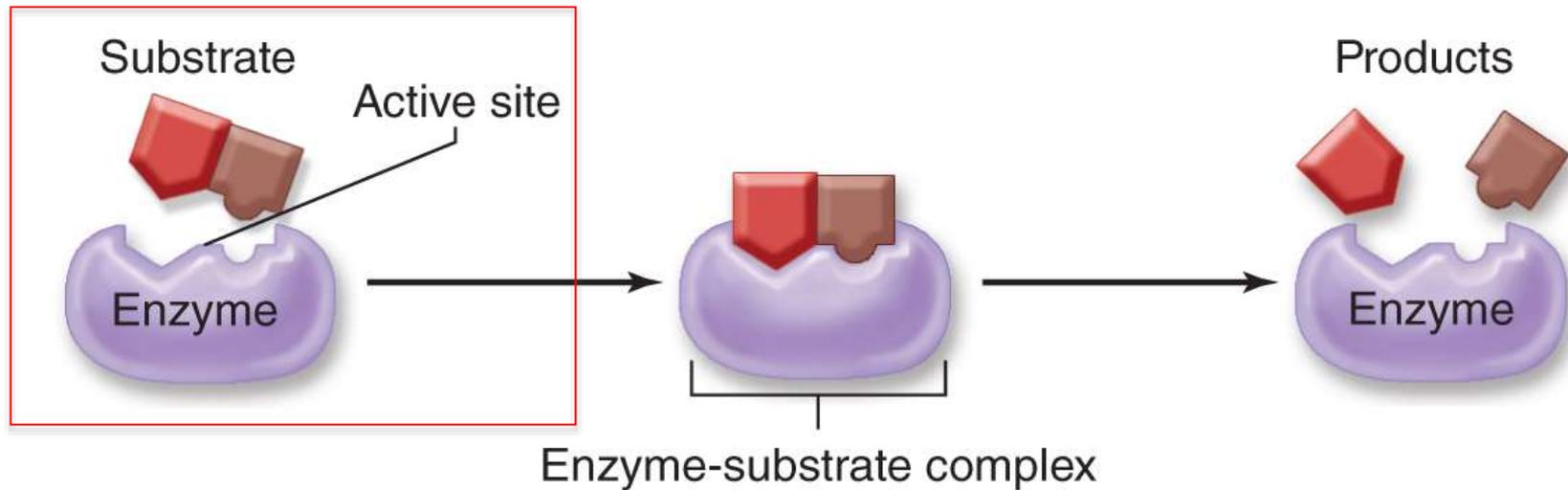
# Enzymes Speed Biochemical Reactions

An **enzyme** is a protein that speeds up a chemical reaction without being consumed.



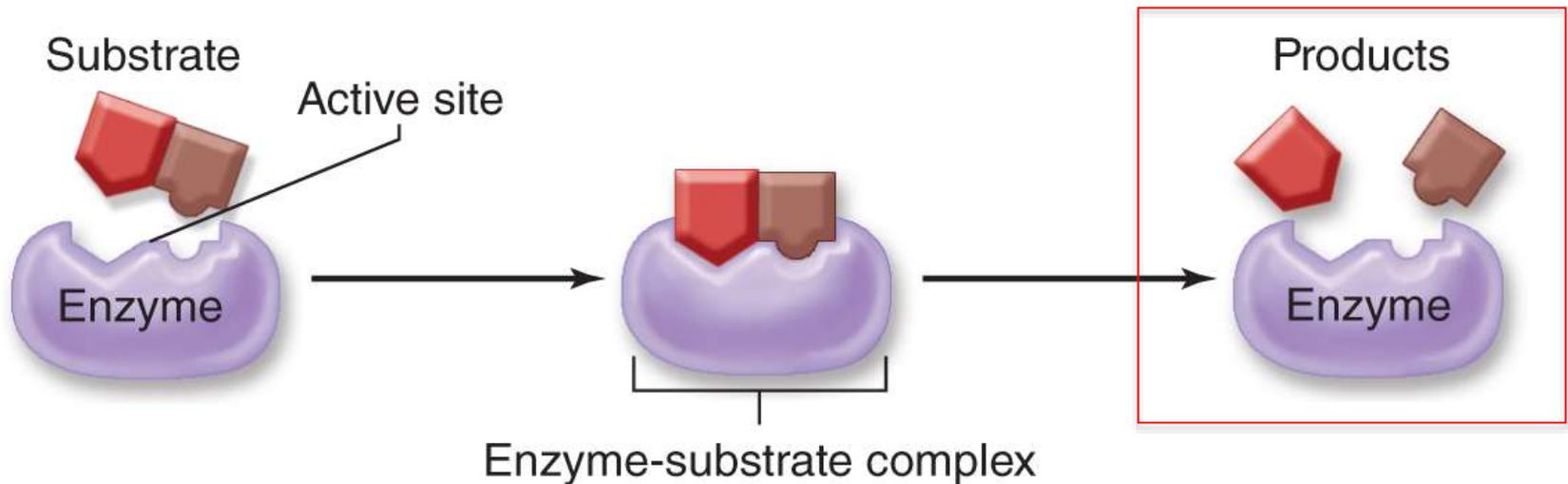
# Enzymes Speed Biochemical Reactions

Substrate molecules bind to the enzyme's **active site**, where the chemical reaction occurs.



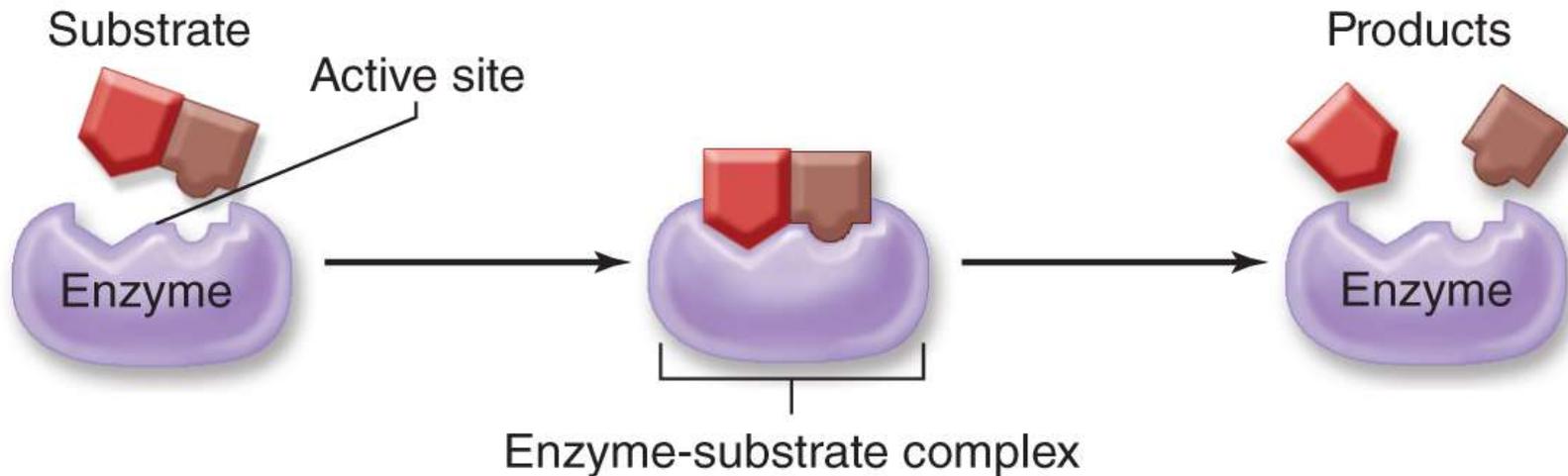
# Enzymes Speed Biochemical Reactions

Once the chemical reaction occurs, product molecules are released. The enzyme retains its original form.



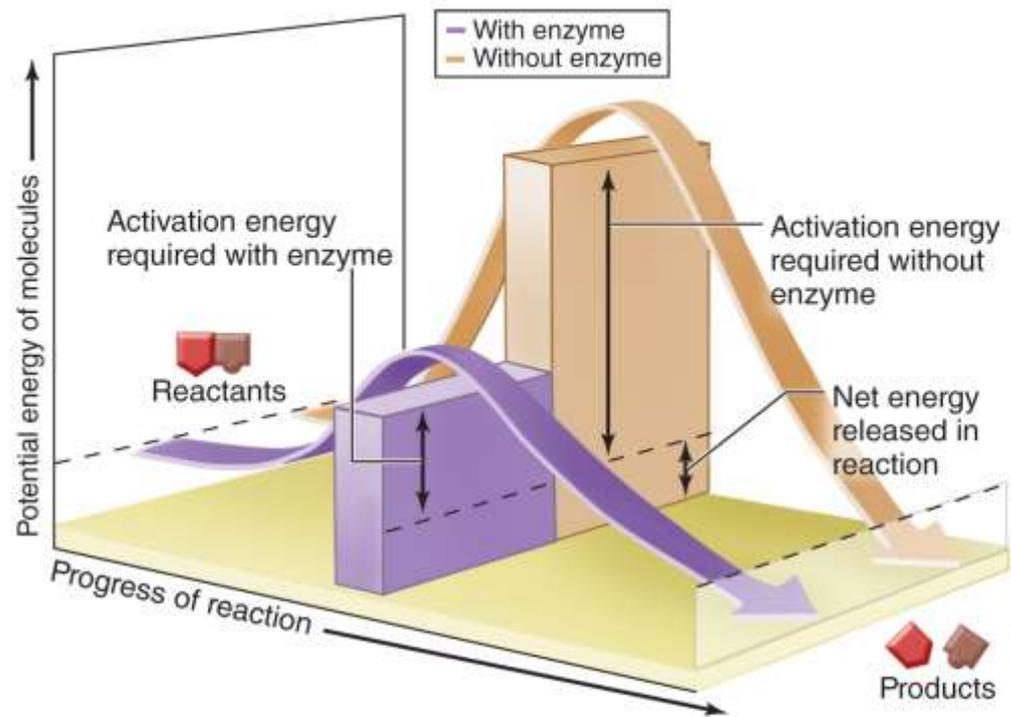
# Enzymes Speed Biochemical Reactions

Note that not all enzymes break a single substrate into two products. Other enzymes combine two substrates into one product, for example.

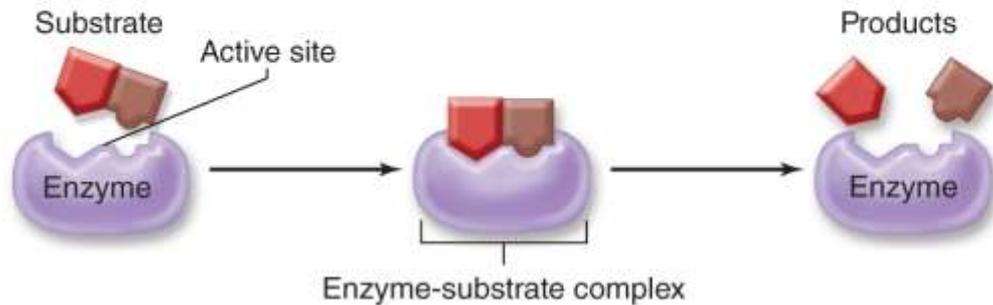


# Enzymes Speed Biochemical Reactions

An enzyme speeds up a chemical reaction by lowering the **activation energy**—the energy required to start the reaction.



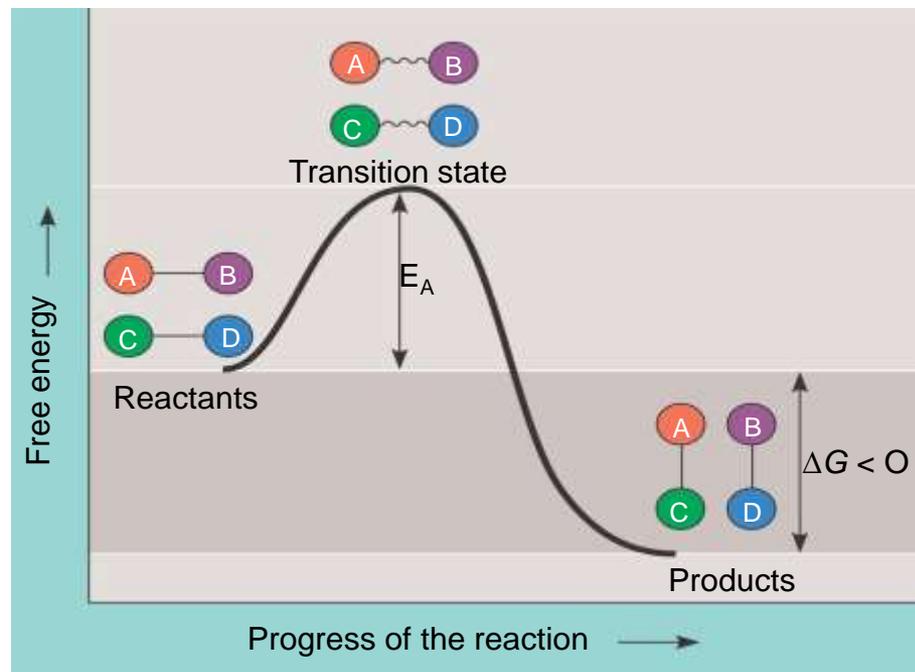
a.



b.

# Activation Energy

- All reactions, both endergonic and exergonic, require an input of energy to get started. This energy is called activation energy
- The activation energy,  $E_A$ 
  - Is the initial amount of energy needed to start a chemical reaction
  - Activation energy is needed to bring the reactants close together and weaken existing bonds to initiate a chemical reaction.
  - Is often supplied in the form of heat from the surroundings in a system.



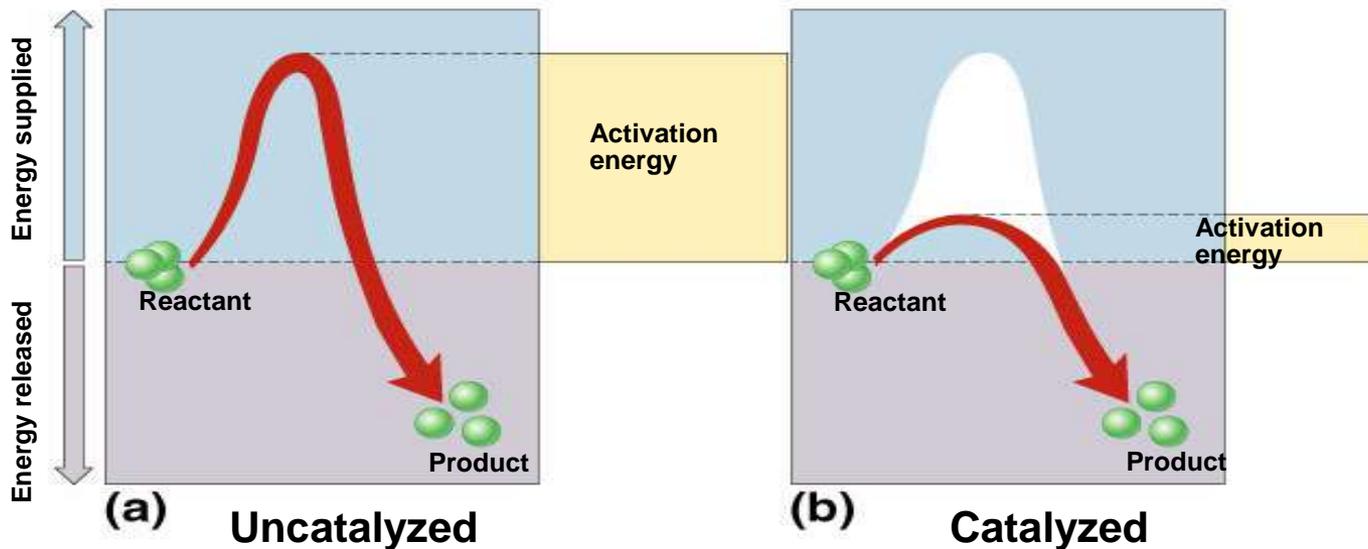
# Reaction Rates

- In most cases, molecules do not have enough kinetic energy to reach the transition state when they collide.
- Therefore, most collisions are non-productive, and the reaction proceeds very slowly if at all.
- What can be done to speed up these reactions?

# Increasing Reaction Rates

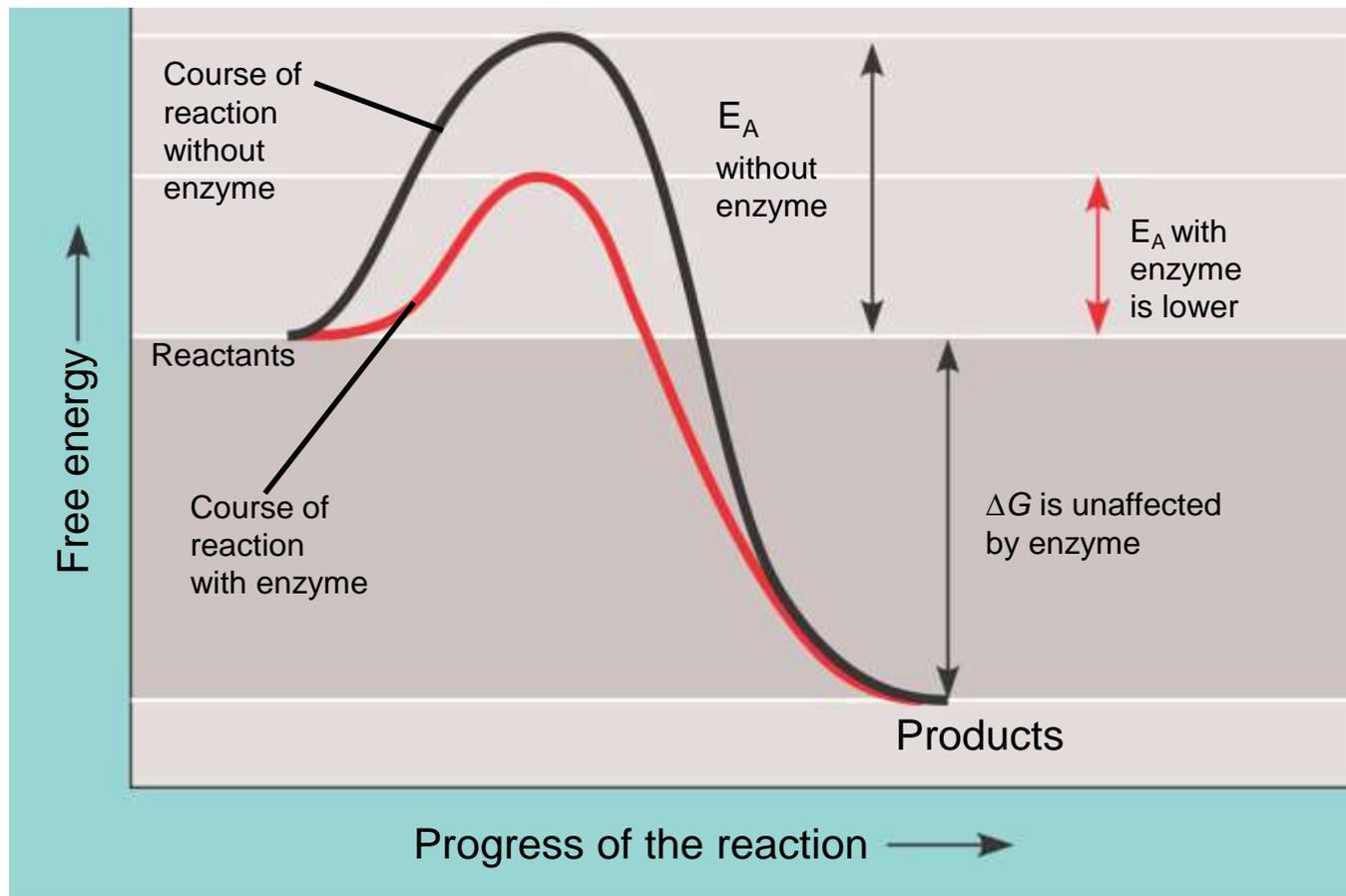
- Add Energy (Heat) - molecules move faster so they collide more frequently and with greater force.
- Add a **catalyst** – a catalyst reduces the energy needed to reach the activation state, without being changed itself. Proteins that function as catalysts are called enzymes.

## Activation Energy and Catalysis



# Enzymes Lower the $E_A$ Barrier

- An enzyme catalyzes reactions by lowering the  $E_A$  barrier

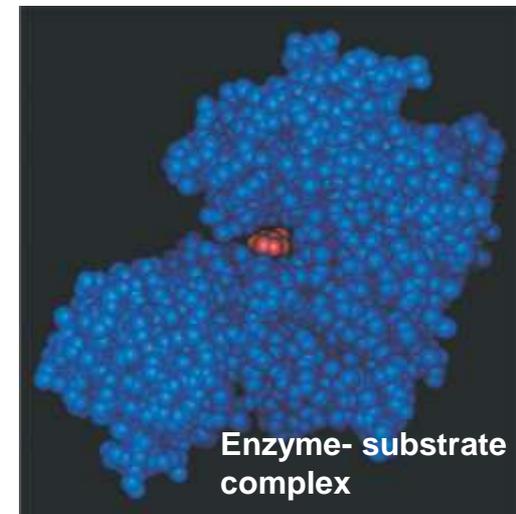
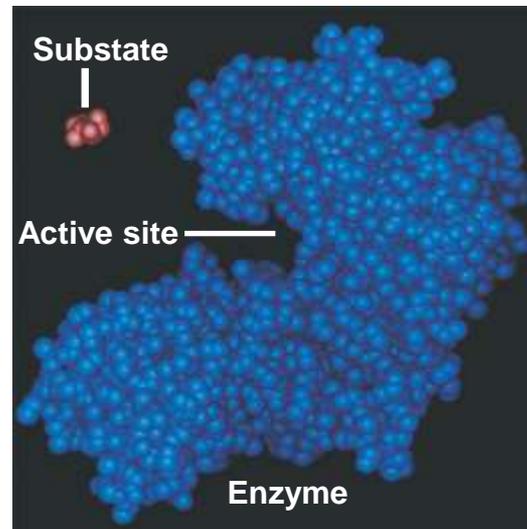


# Enzymes Are Biological Catalysts

- Enzymes are proteins that carry out most catalysis in living organisms.
- Unlike heat, enzymes are highly specific. Each enzyme typically speeds up only one or a few chemical reactions.
- Unique three-dimensional shape enables an enzyme to stabilize a temporary association between substrates.
- Because the enzyme itself is not changed or consumed in the reaction, only a small amount is needed, and can then be reused.
- Therefore, by controlling which enzymes are made, a cell can control which reactions take place in the cell.

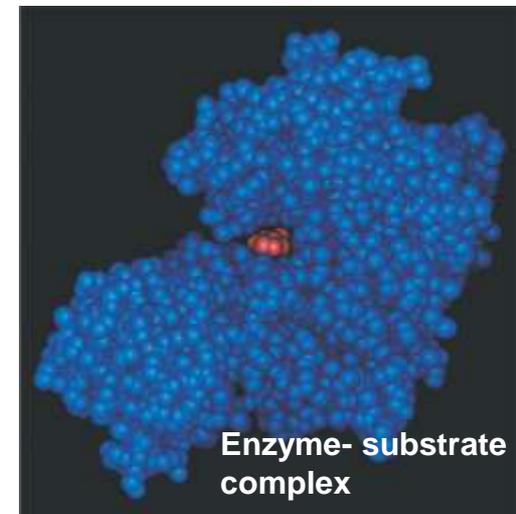
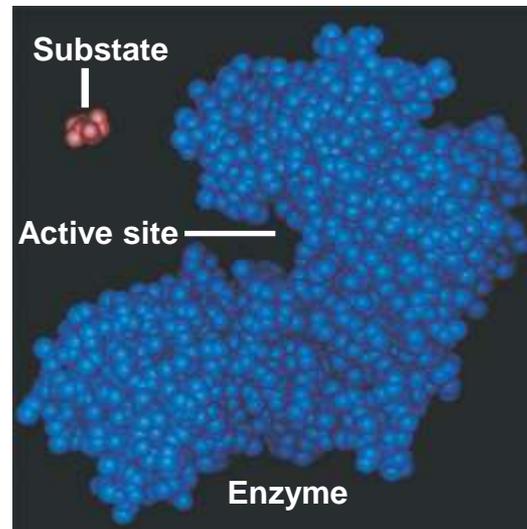
# Substrate Specificity of Enzymes

- Almost all enzymes are globular proteins with one or more active sites on their surface.
- The substrate is the reactant an enzyme acts on
- Reactants bind to the **active site** to form an **enzyme-substrate complex**.
- The 3-D shape of the active site and the substrates must match, like a lock and key



# Substrate Specificity of Enzymes

- Binding of the substrates causes the enzyme to adjust its shape slightly, leading to a better induced fit.
- Induced fit of a substrate brings chemical groups of the active site into positions that enhance their ability to catalyze the chemical reaction
- When this happens, the substrates are brought close together **and existing bonds are stressed. This reduces the amount of energy needed to reach the transition state.**



# The Catalytic Cycle Of An Enzyme

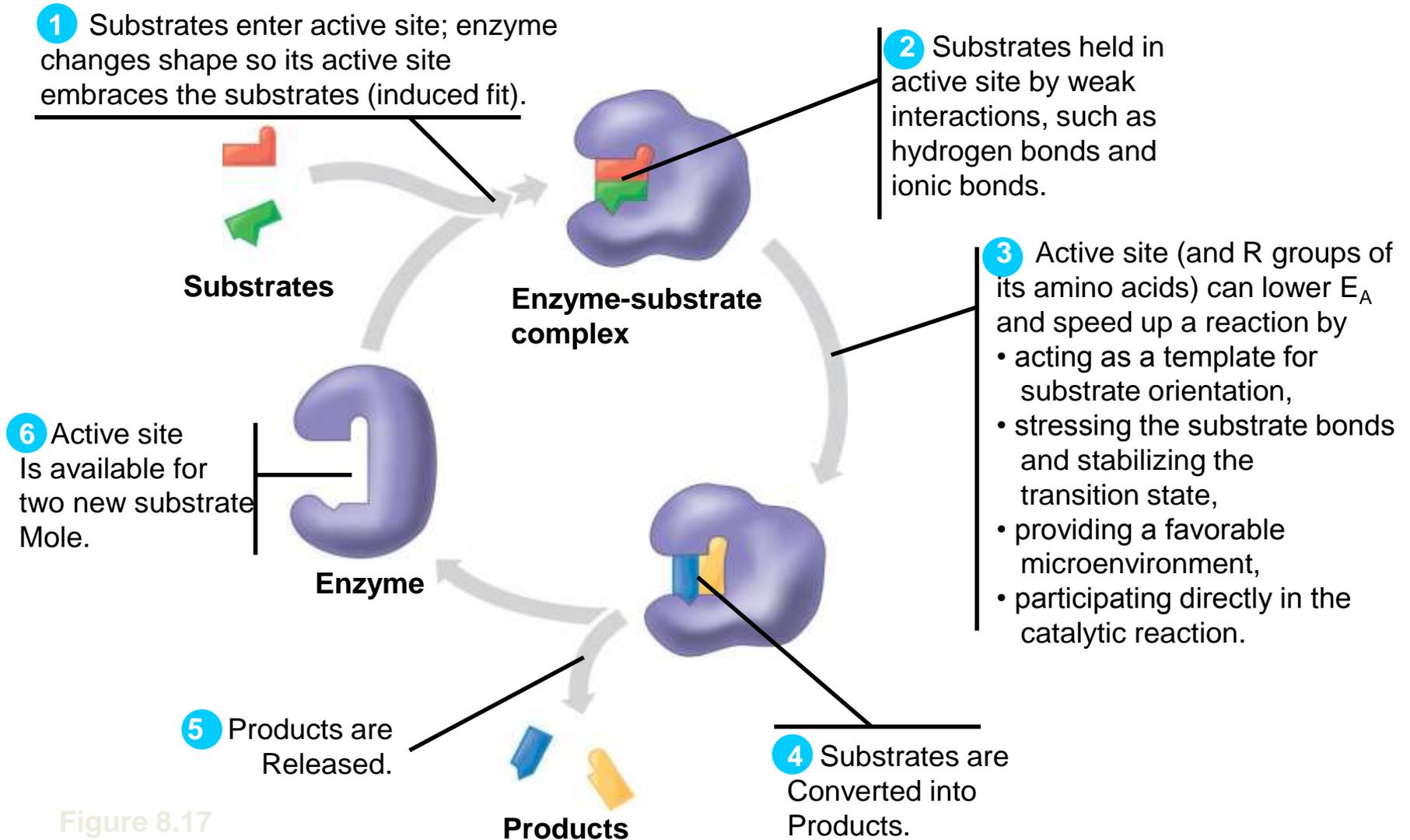
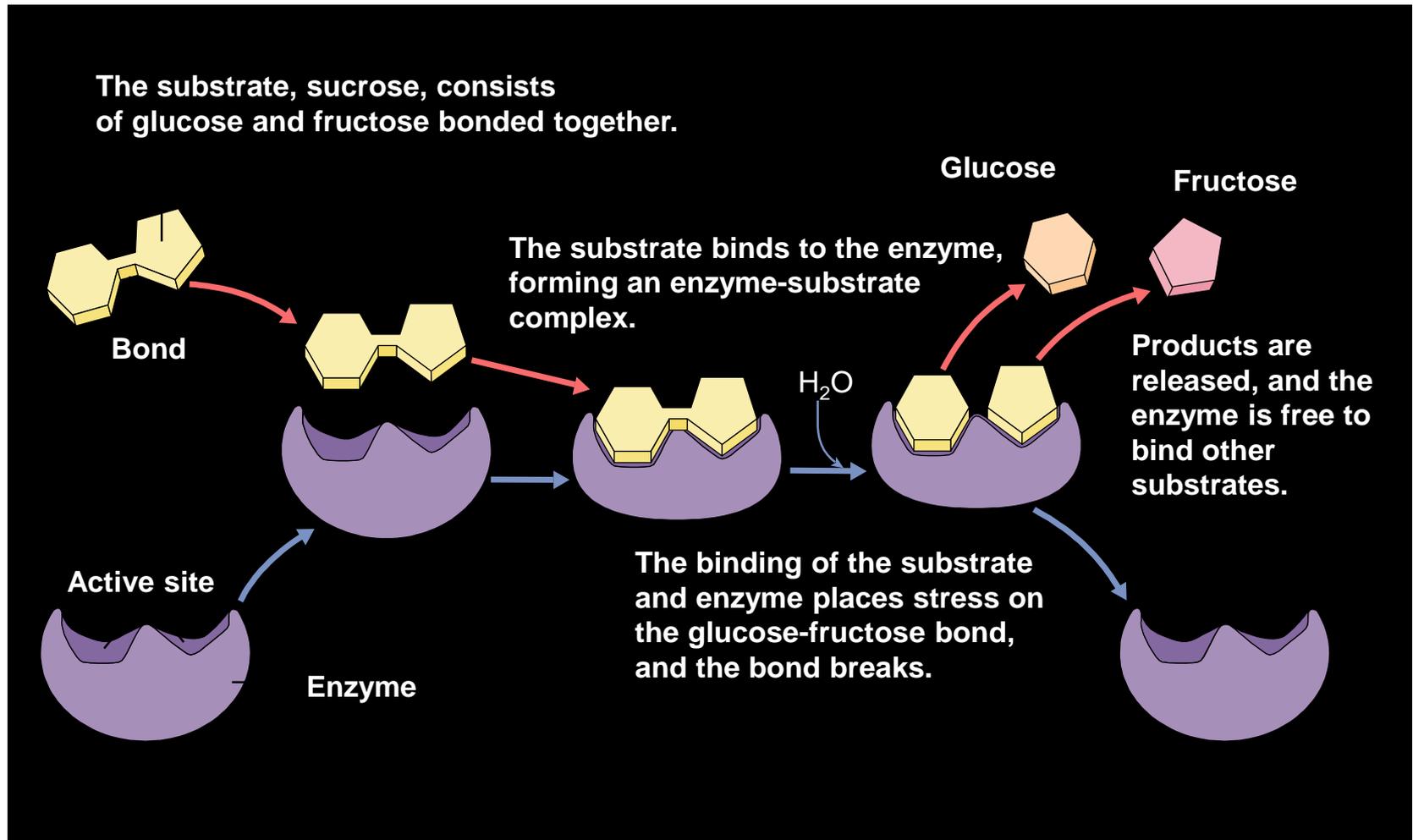


Figure 8.17

# The Catalytic Cycle Of An Enzyme

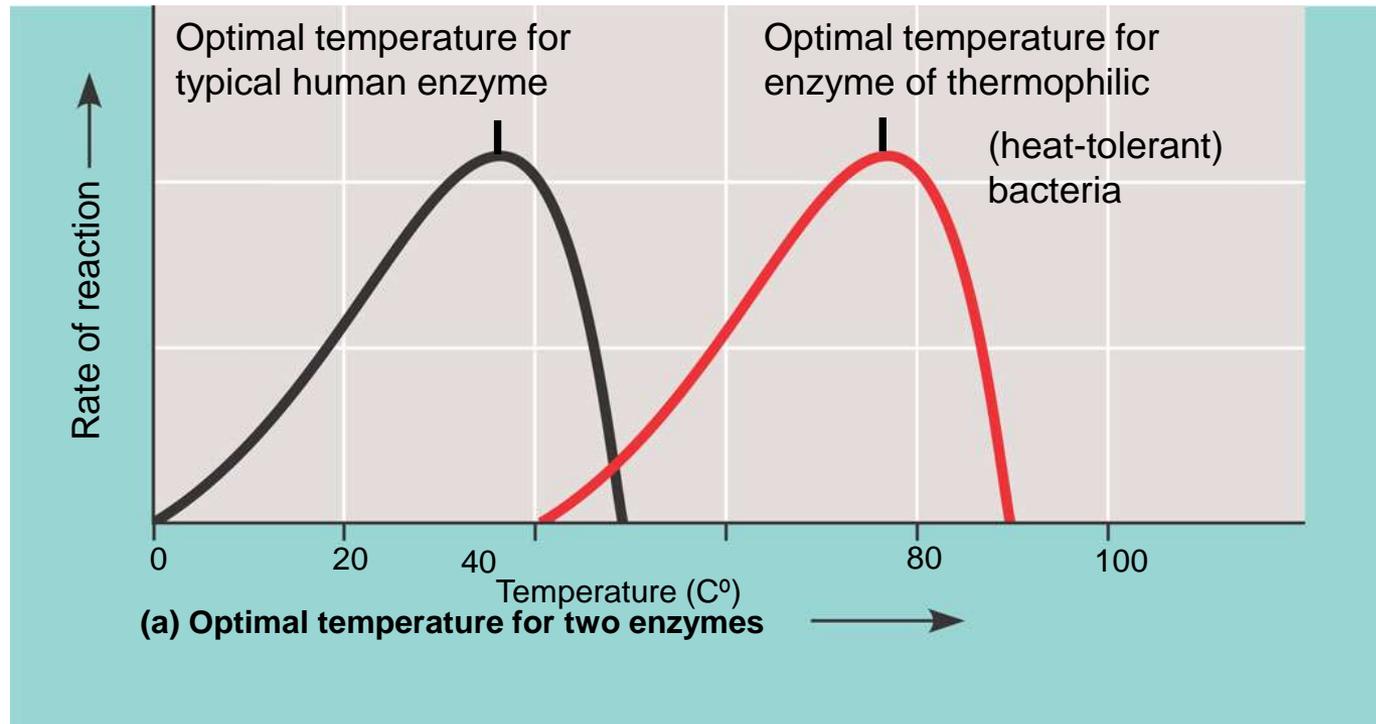


# Factors Affecting Enzyme Activity

- **Temperature** - rate of an enzyme-catalyzed reaction increases with temperature, but only up to an optimum temperature.
- **pH** - ionic interactions also hold enzymes together.
- Inhibitors and Activators

# *Effects of Temperature and pH*

- Each enzyme has an optimal temperature in which it can function



# *Effects of Temperature and pH*

- Each enzyme has an optimal pH in which it can function

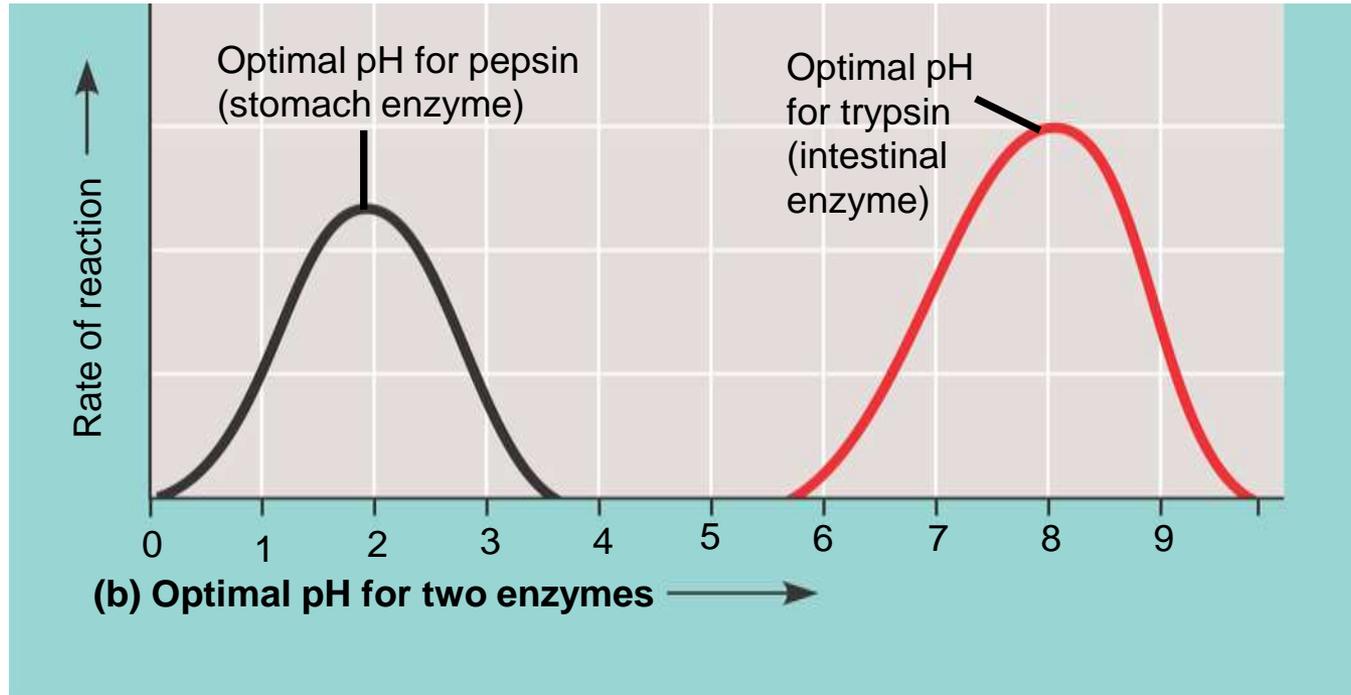
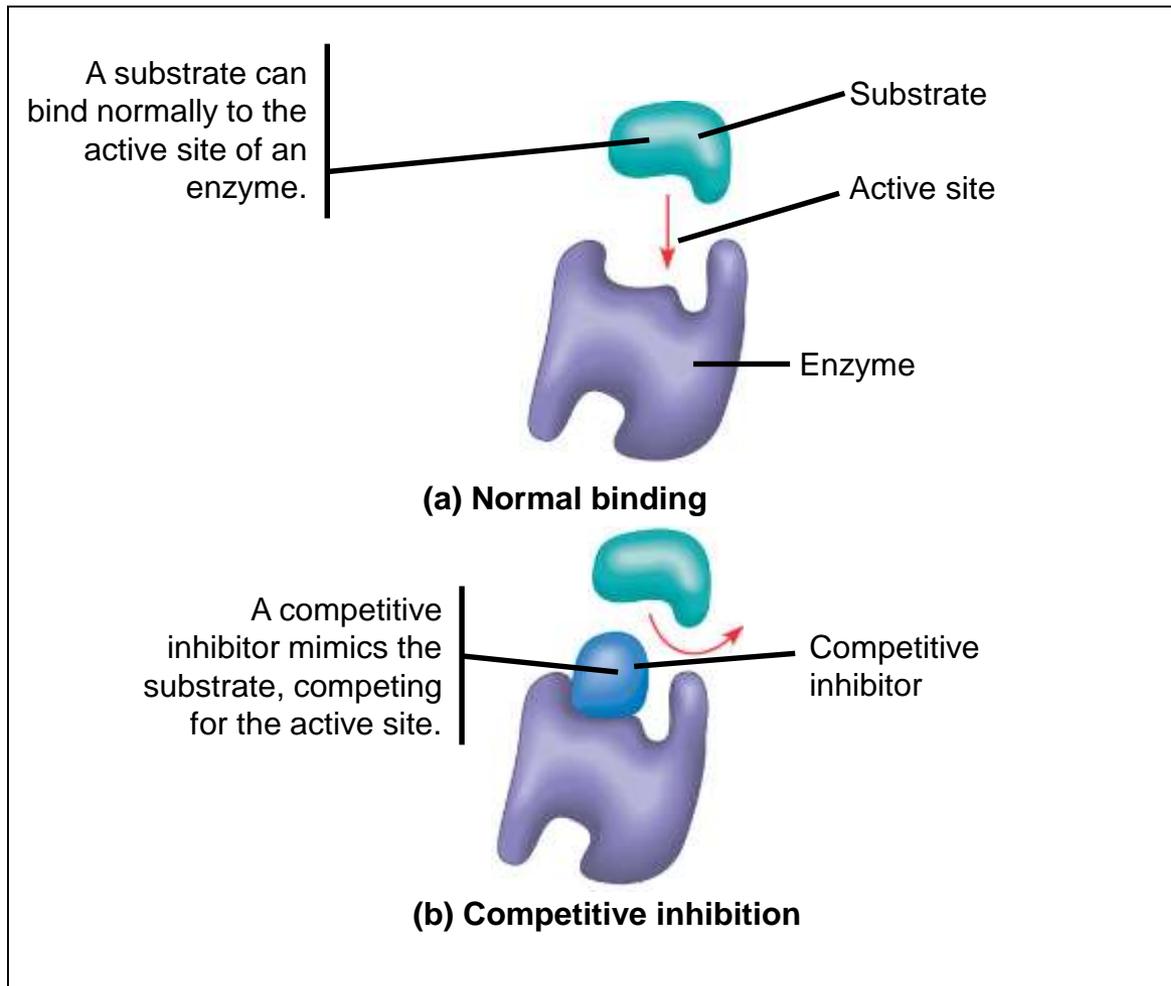


Figure 8.18

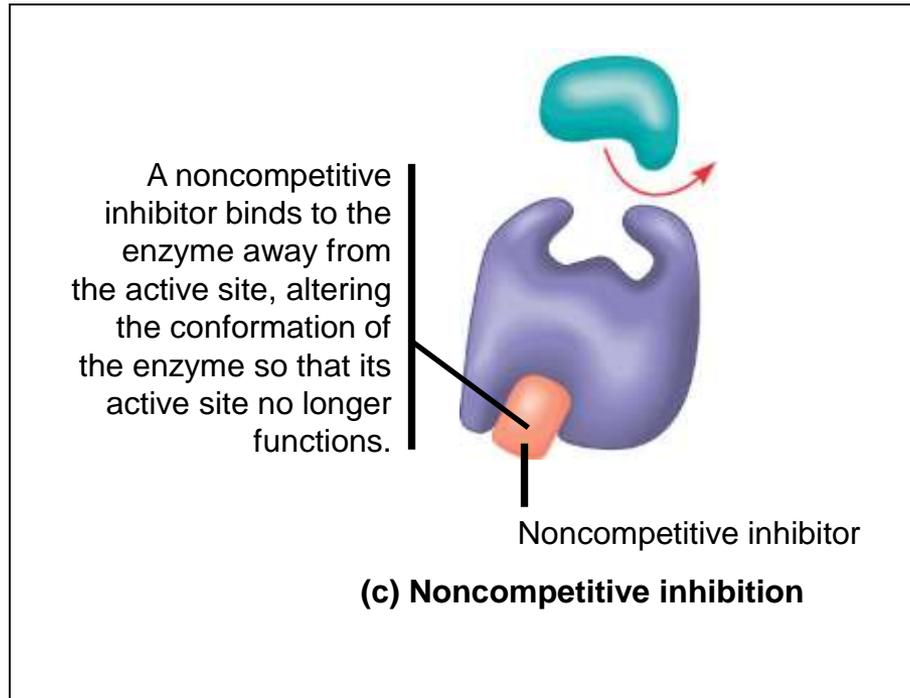
# *Enzyme Inhibitors*

- Competitive inhibitors bind to the active site of an enzyme, competing with the substrate



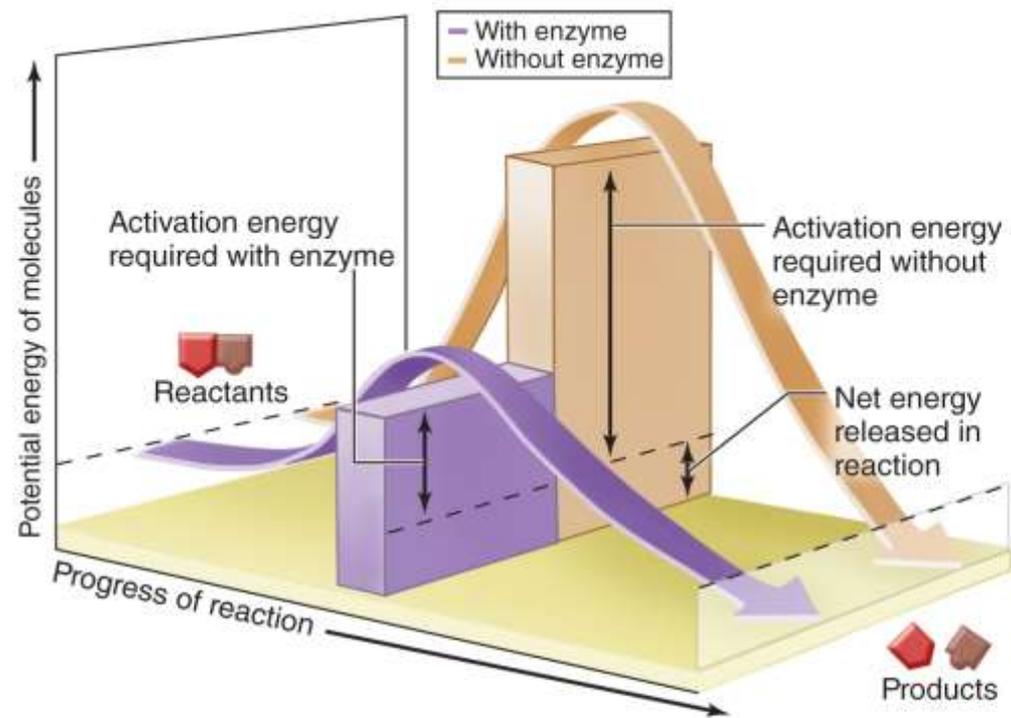
# *Enzyme Inhibitors*

- Noncompetitive inhibitors bind to another part of an enzyme, changing the function

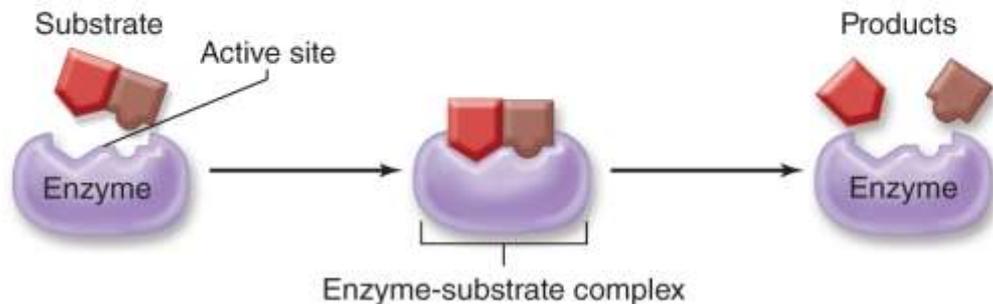


# Enzymes Speed Biochemical Reactions

Many enzymes have non-protein partners called **cofactors** that help catalyze reactions. Some cofactors are metals (e.x. Zn, Fe, Cu, Mg)  
Others are organic molecules called **coenzymes** (e.x. B-vitamins)



a.

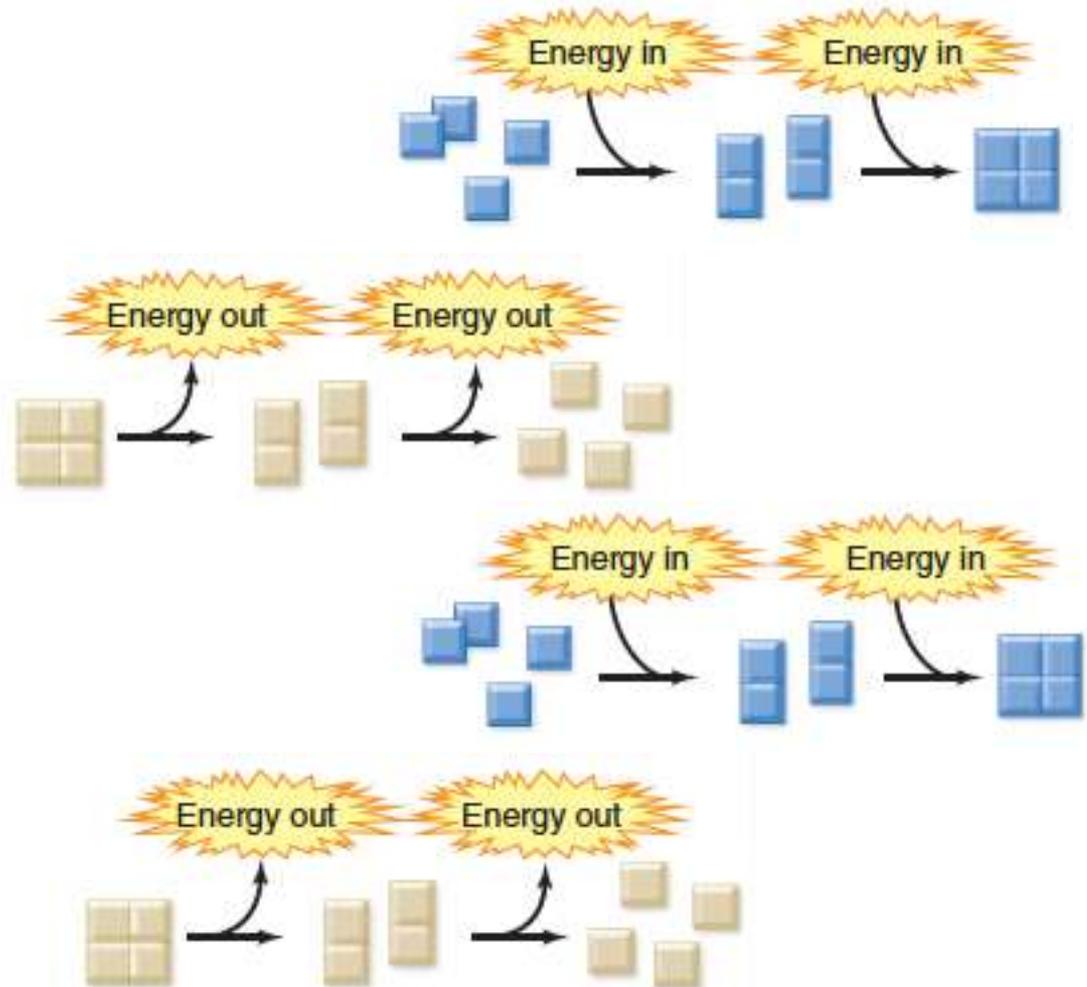


b.

# Enzymes Speed Biochemical Reactions

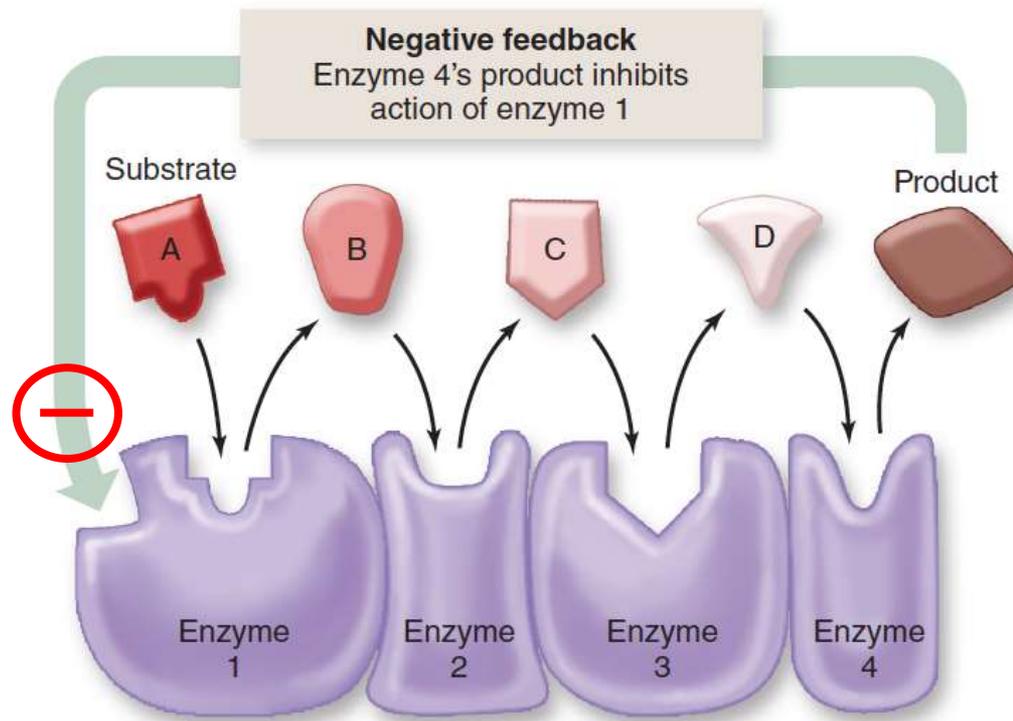
Only some chemical reactions are occurring in a cell at a given time. How does the cell control the rate of chemical reactions?

**Feedback loops**

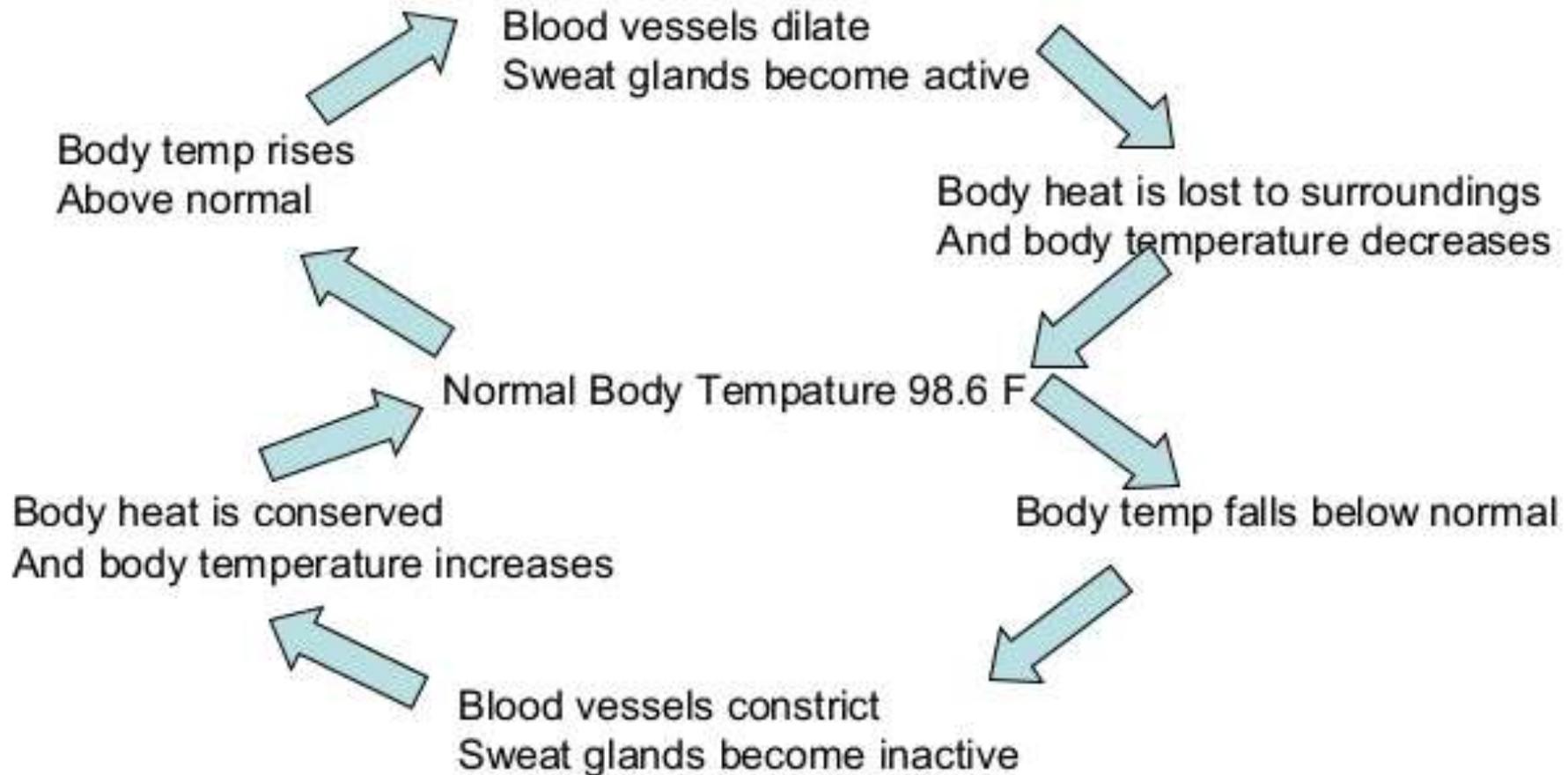


# Many Factors Affect Enzyme Activity

In a process called **negative feedback**, the product of a reaction slows the production of more product.

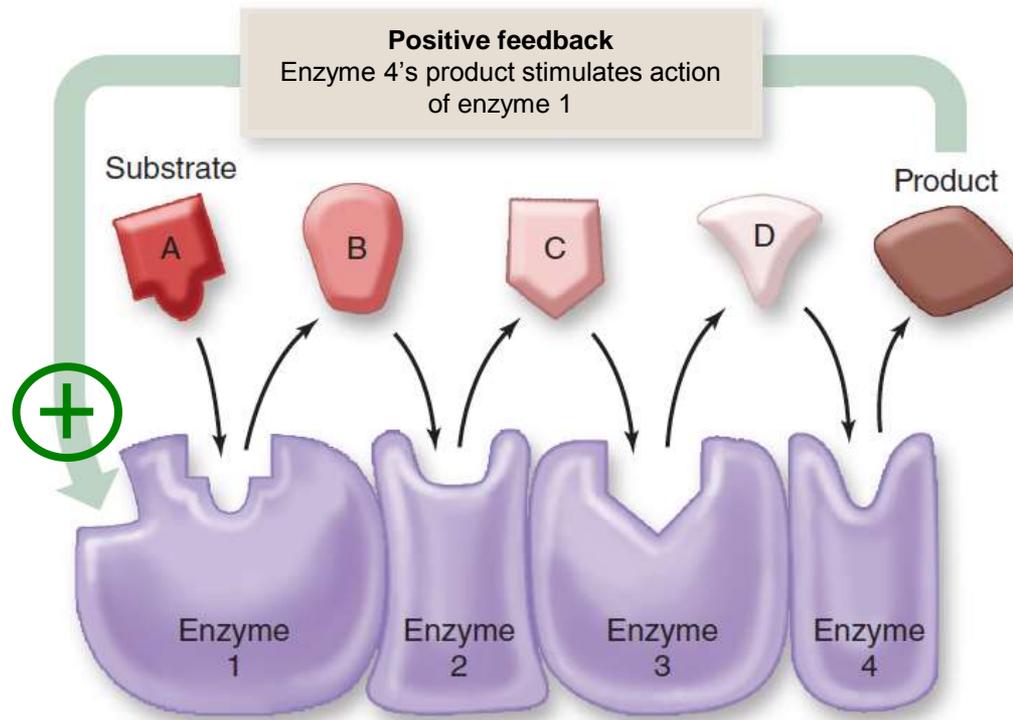


# Negative Feedback



# Many Factors Affect Enzyme Activity

In the opposite process, called **positive feedback**, the product of a reaction stimulates its own production.



Nerve impulses from cervix transmitted to brain

Brain stimulates pituitary gland to secrete oxytocin



Oxytocin carried in bloodstream to uterus

Oxytocin stimulates uterine contractions and pushes baby towards cervix

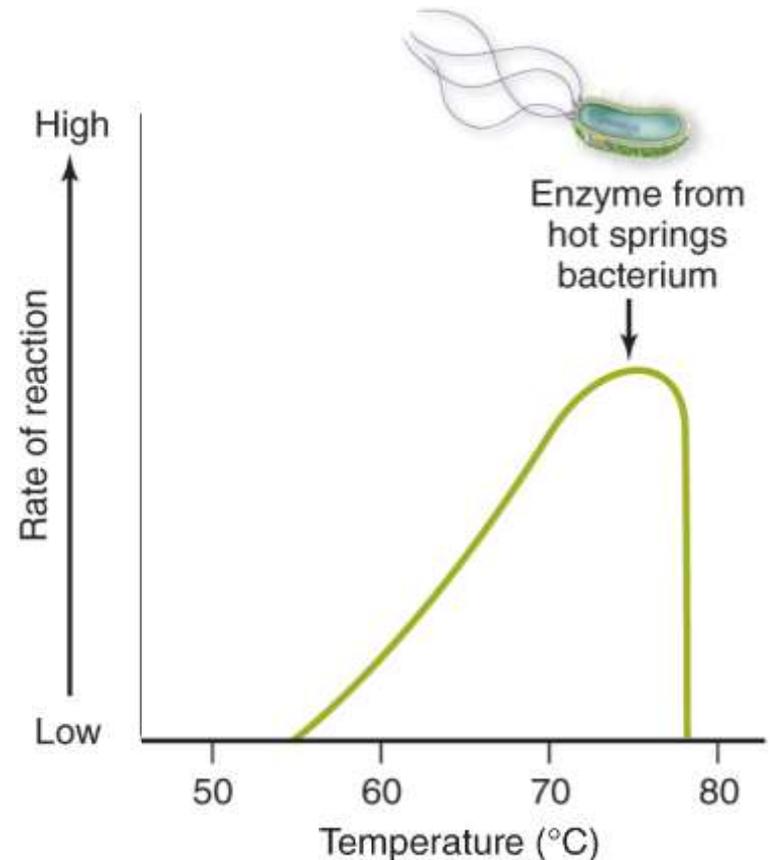
Head of baby pushes against cervix



# Clicker Question #4

According to the graph, at what temperature do you predict the bacterial enzyme becomes denatured?

- A. 55° C
- B. 66° C
- C. 73° C
- D. 78° C

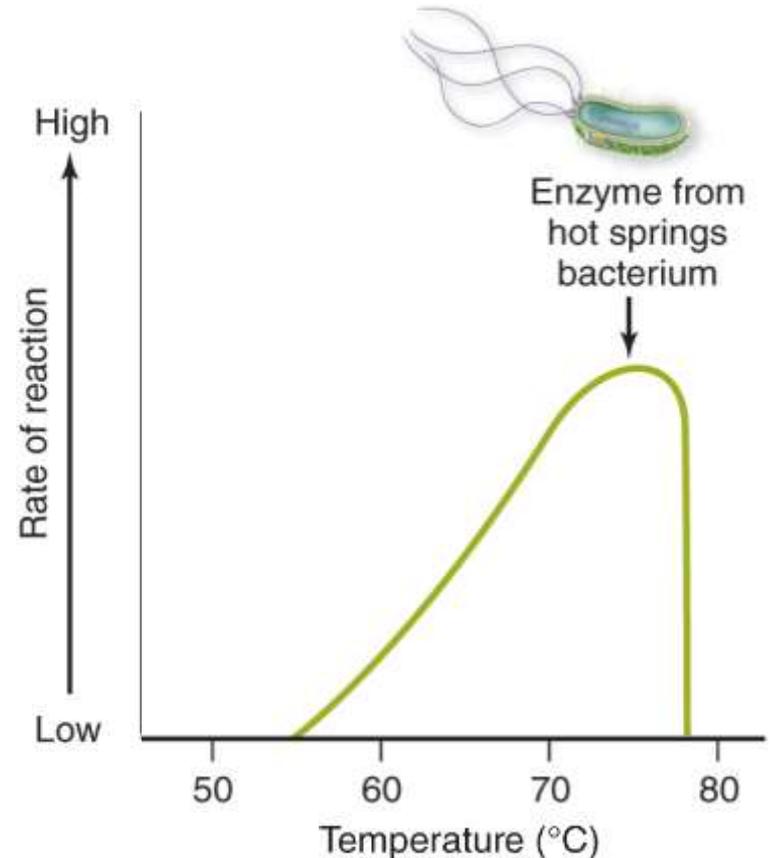




# Clicker Question #4

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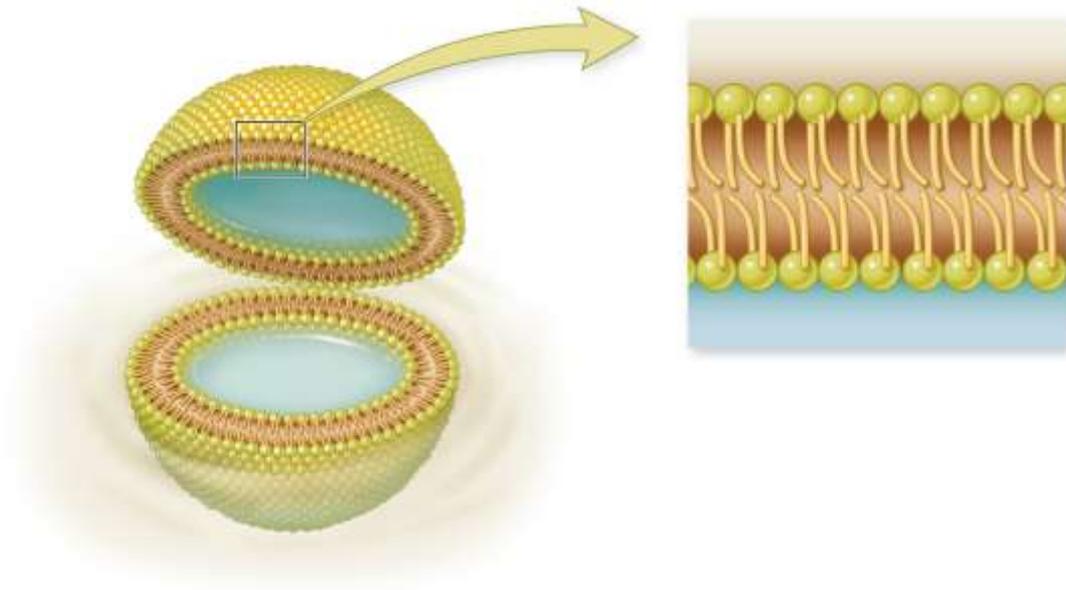
# 4.4 Mastering Concepts



What do enzymes do in cells?

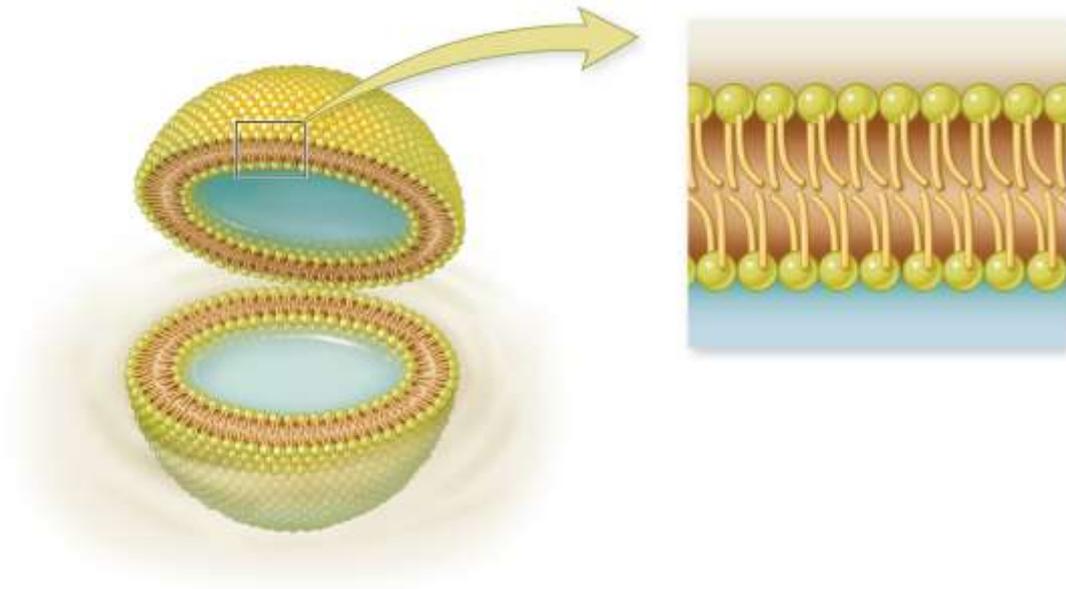
# Substances Enter and Exit Cells By Multiple Methods

A cell's interior is chemically different from its exterior. It maintains this difference by regulating transport of dissolved substances (solutes) across its membrane.

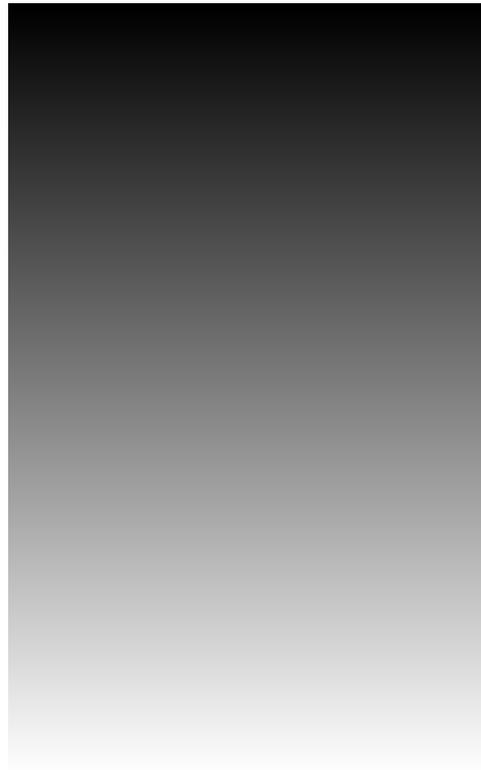


# Substances Enter and Exit Cells By Multiple Methods

Solutes enter and exit cells by different methods, depending on two factors: concentration gradients and the chemical nature of the substance (polarity, charge, and size).

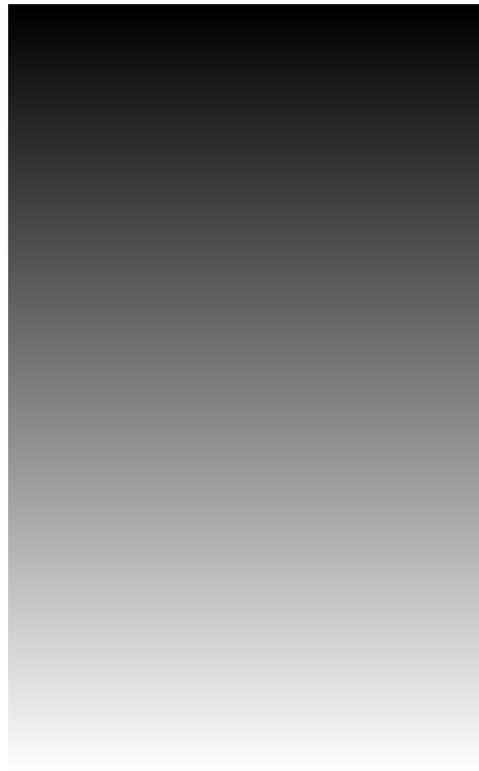


# “Gradient” Describes a Difference Between Neighboring Regions



# “Gradient” Describes a Difference Between Neighboring Regions

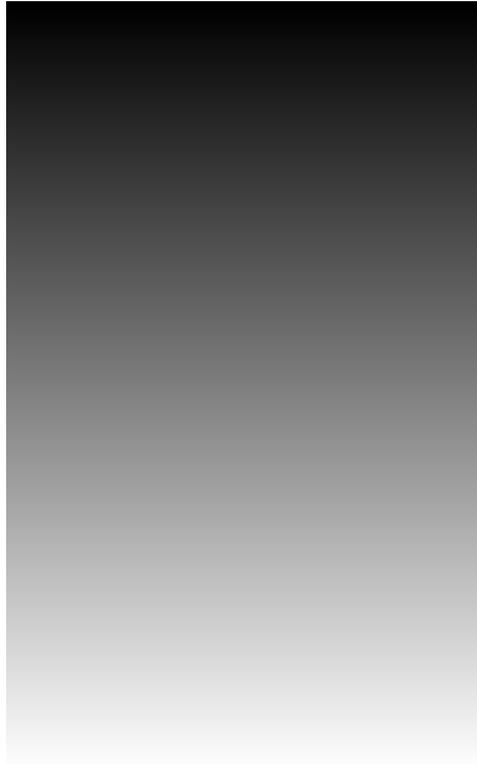
High concentration  
of black pixels



At the top, the black pixels are  
abundant and close together.

# “Gradient” Describes a Difference Between Neighboring Regions

High concentration  
of black pixels →



At the top, the black pixels are  
abundant and close together.

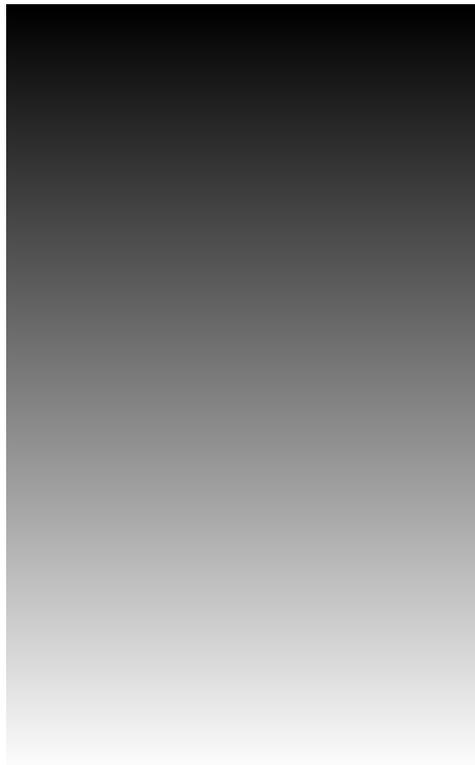
Low concentration  
of black pixels →

At the bottom, the black pixels  
are sparse.

# “Gradient” Describes a Difference Between Neighboring Regions

This image is a **concentration gradient** of black pixels, with high concentration at the top and low concentration at the bottom.

High concentration  
of black pixels →



At the top, the black pixels are  
abundant and close together.

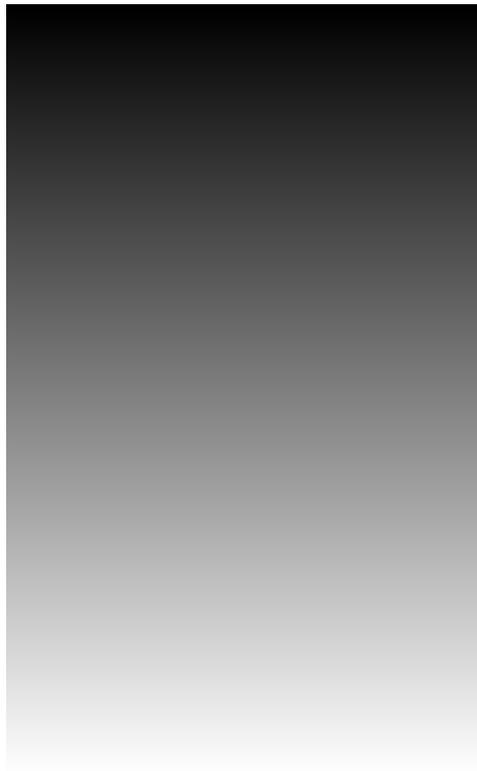
Low concentration  
of black pixels →

At the bottom, the black pixels  
are sparse.

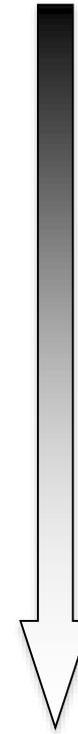
# “Gradient” Describes a Difference Between Neighboring Regions

This image is a **concentration gradient** of black pixels, with high concentration at the top and low concentration at the bottom.

High concentration  
of black pixels



Low concentration  
of black pixels

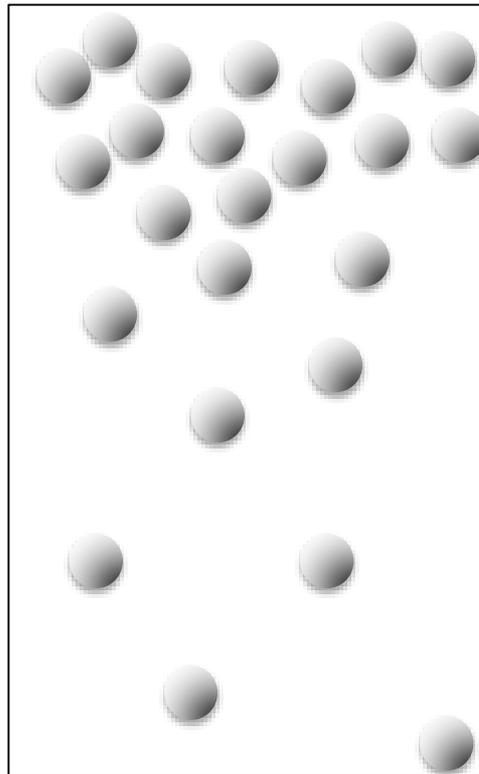


This arrow points *down the concentration gradient* since it starts at high concentration and ends at low concentration of black pixels.

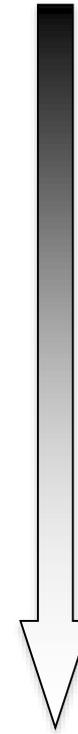
# Concentration Gradients Have a Tendency to Dissipate

The balls within this box have the same concentration gradient as the black pixels did.

High concentration  
of balls



Low concentration  
of balls

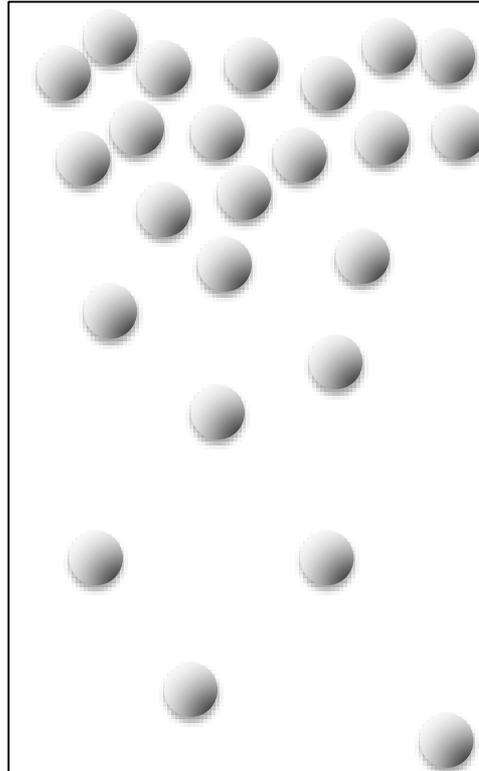


This arrow points *down the concentration gradient* since it starts at high concentration and ends at low concentration of balls.

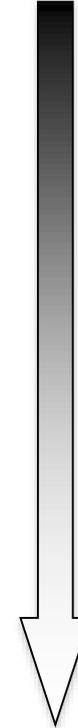
# Concentration Gradients Have a Tendency to Dissipate

If the balls started bouncing around the box at random, they would become more evenly distributed over time.

High concentration  
of balls



Low concentration  
of balls



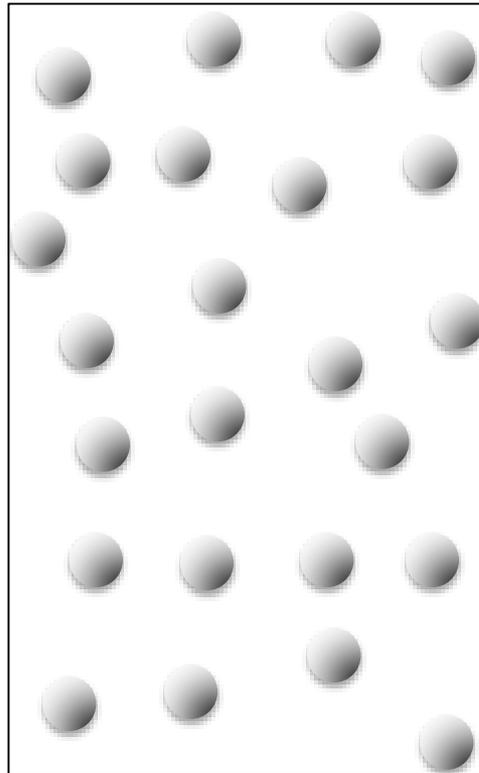
This arrow points *down the concentration gradient* since it starts at high concentration and ends at low concentration of balls.

# Concentration Gradients Have a Tendency to Dissipate

This is how it would look after time has passed. No energy is required to dissipate the gradient; it occurs by random motion.

Equal distribution  
of balls

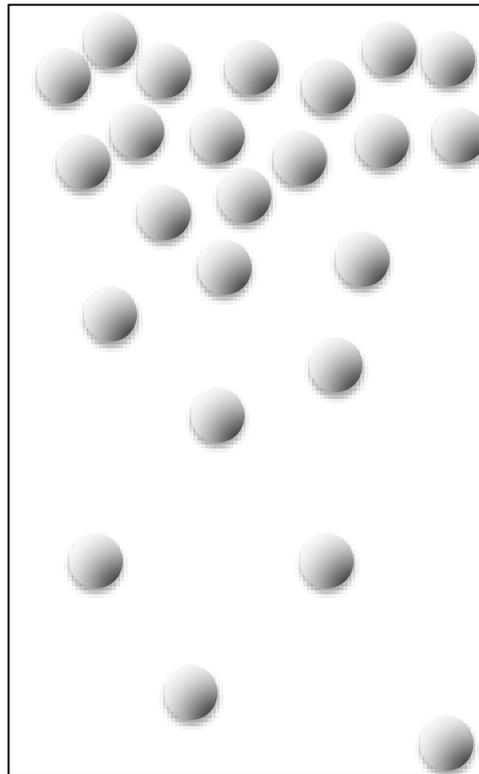
No concentration  
gradient



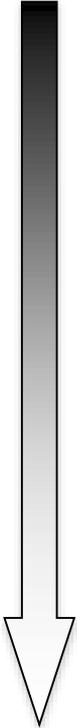
# Concentration Gradients Have a Tendency to Dissipate

Maintaining this distribution of balls within the box *requires energy*, since the concentration gradient has a tendency to dissipate.

High concentration  
of balls



Low concentration  
of balls

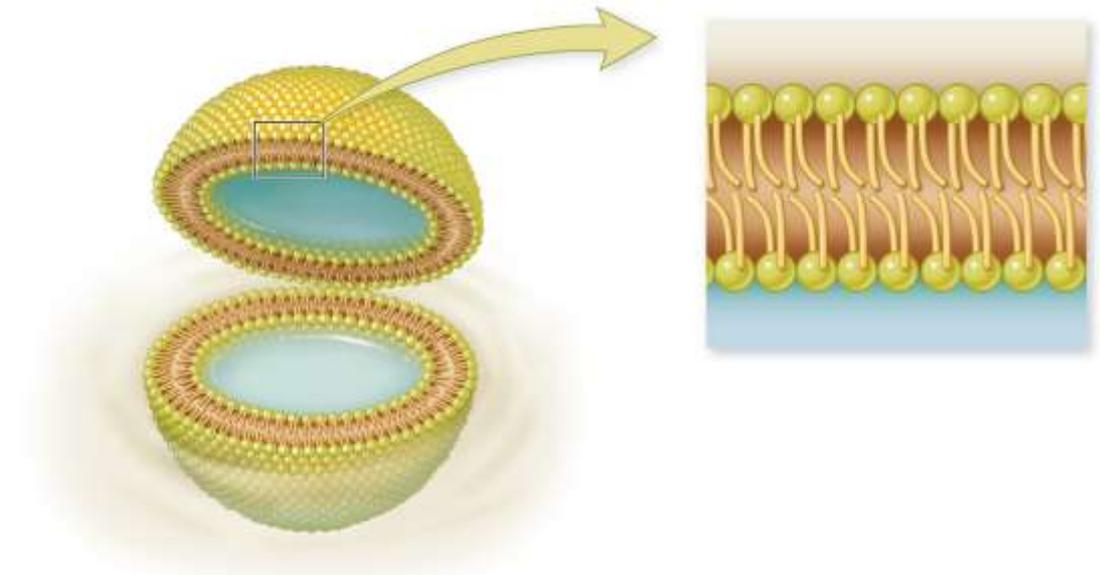


This arrow points *down the concentration gradient* since it starts at high concentration and ends at low concentration of balls.

# Membrane Transport May Release or Cost Energy

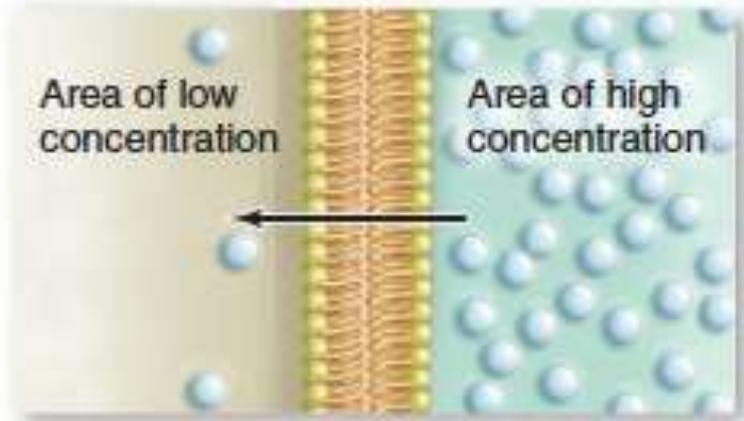
How cells transport substances across their membranes:

- Passive transport
  - Simple diffusion
  - Facilitated diffusion
  - Osmosis
- Active transport
- Endocytosis/exocytosis



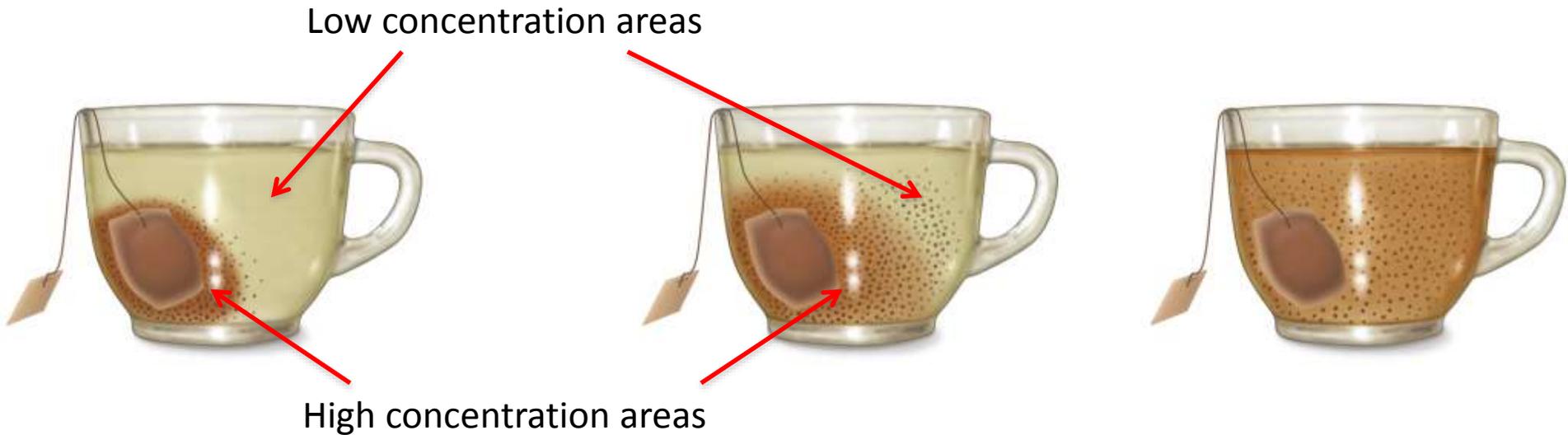
# Passive Transport Does Not Require Energy

**Passive transport** occurs when concentration gradients dissipate across a biological membrane.

<p>Simple diffusion</p>	<p>Substance moves across membrane without assistance of transport proteins.</p>  <p>The diagram illustrates simple diffusion across a biological membrane. A central vertical strip represents the membrane, composed of a phospholipid bilayer with yellow heads and orange tails. To the left of the membrane is a light brown area labeled 'Area of low concentration', containing a few blue spherical particles. To the right is a light green area labeled 'Area of high concentration', containing many blue spherical particles. A black arrow points from the high concentration area on the right, through the membrane, to the low concentration area on the left, indicating the direction of net movement.</p>
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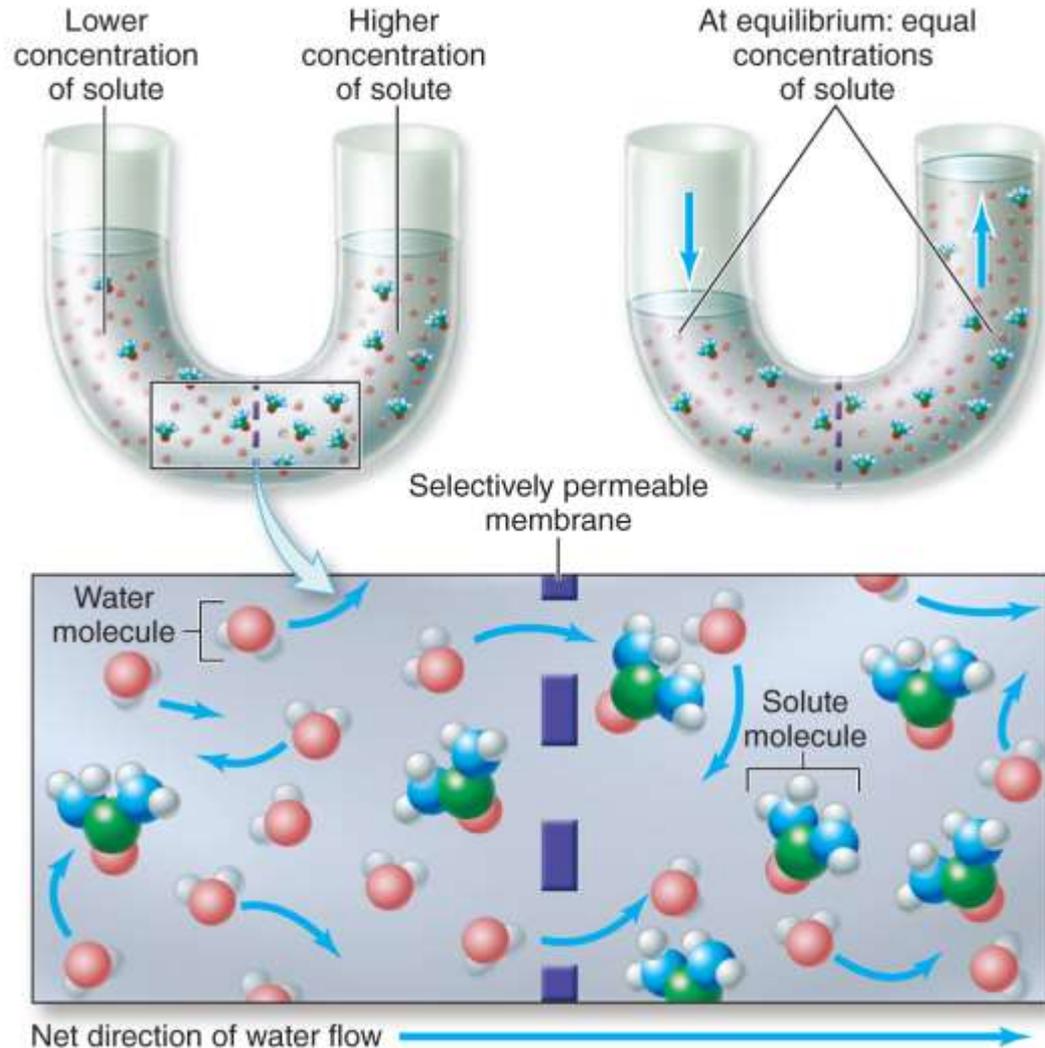
# Passive Transport Does Not Require Energy

In **simple diffusion**, particles move from high concentration to low concentration—that is, they move down their concentration gradient.



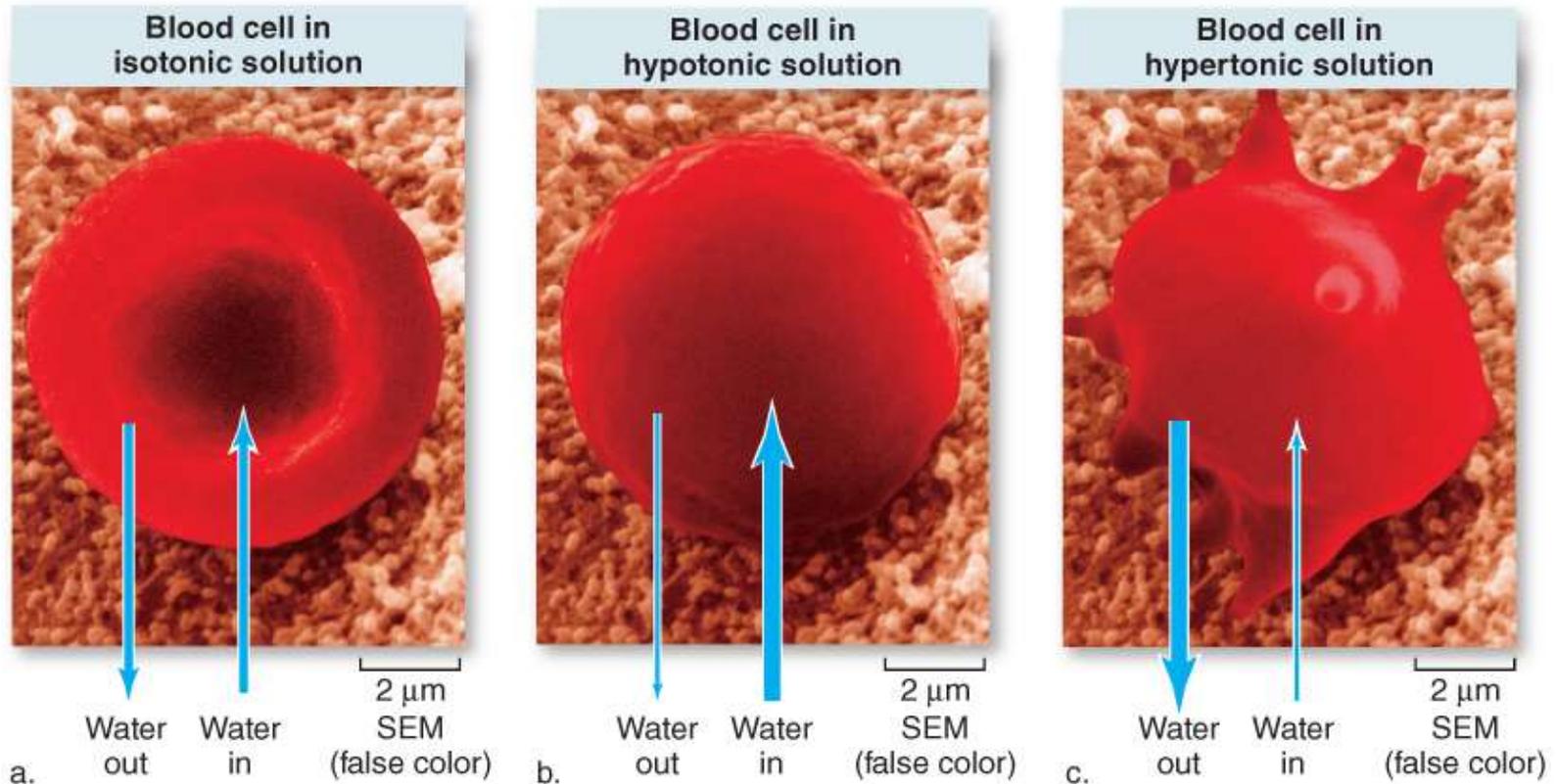
# Passive Transport Does Not Require Energy

**Osmosis**, the diffusion of water down its concentration gradient, is also a type of passive transport.

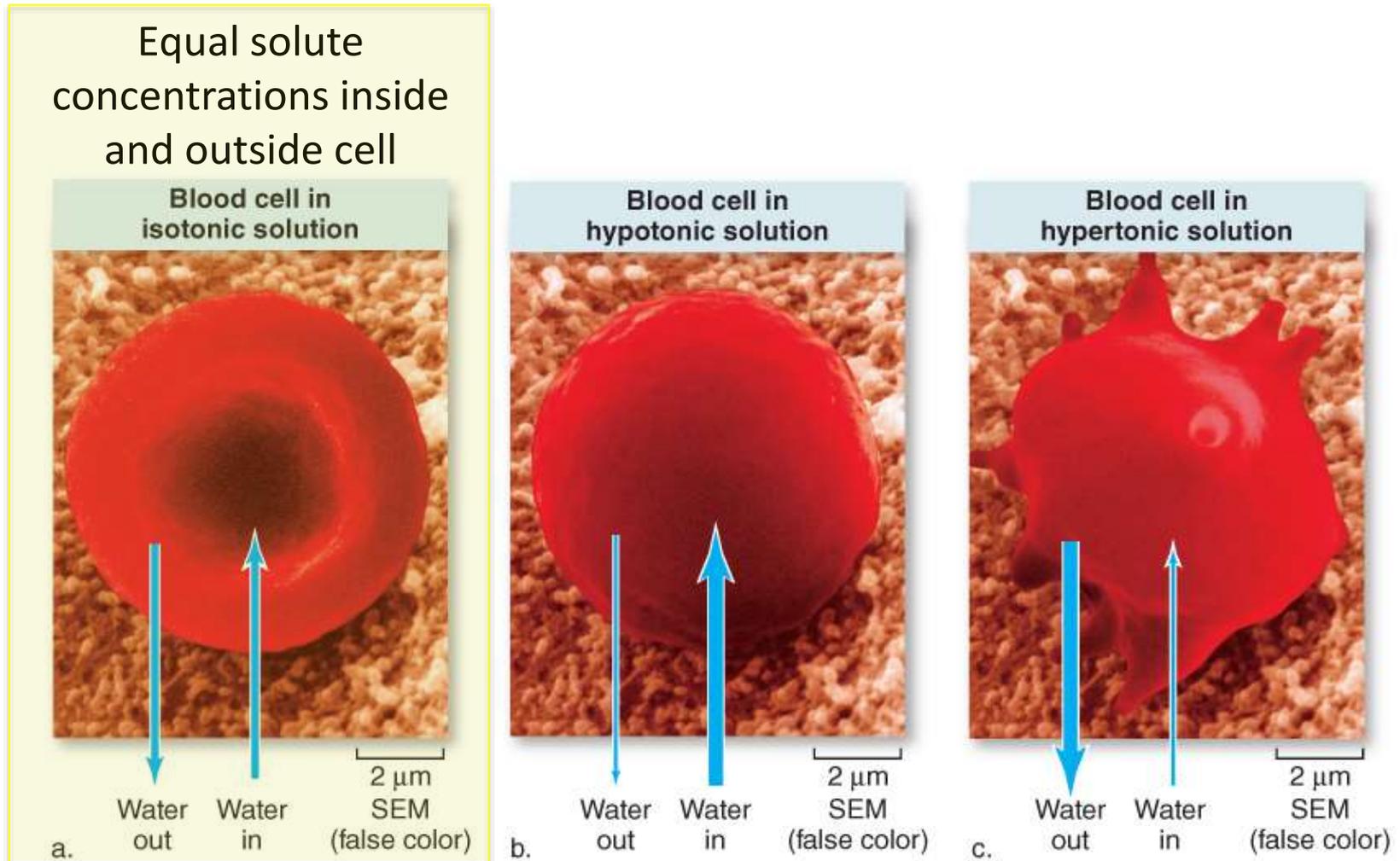


# Passive Transport Does Not Require Energy

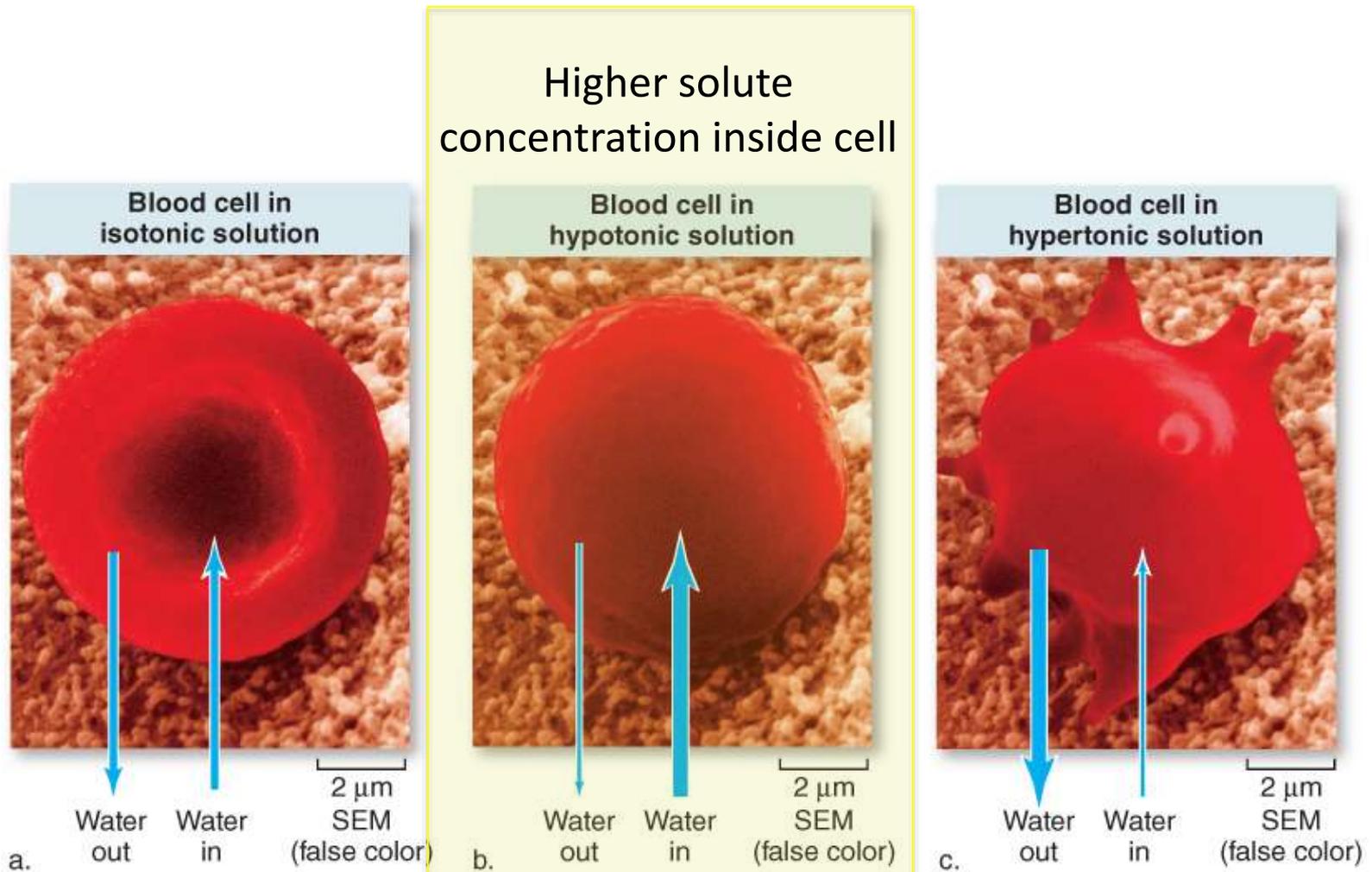
Water moves toward high solute concentrations as it moves down its concentration gradient.



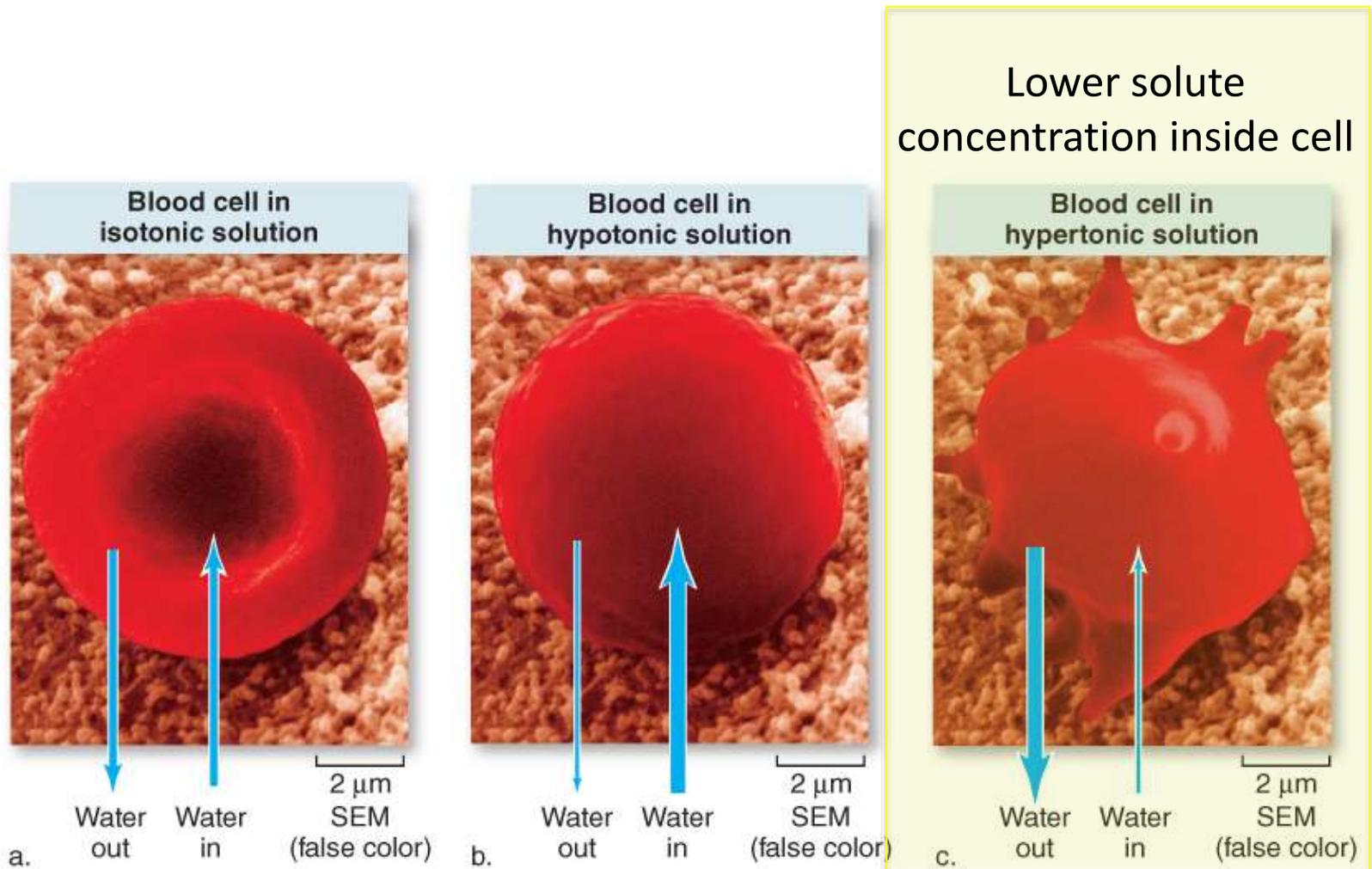
# Passive Transport Does Not Require Energy



# Passive Transport Does Not Require Energy

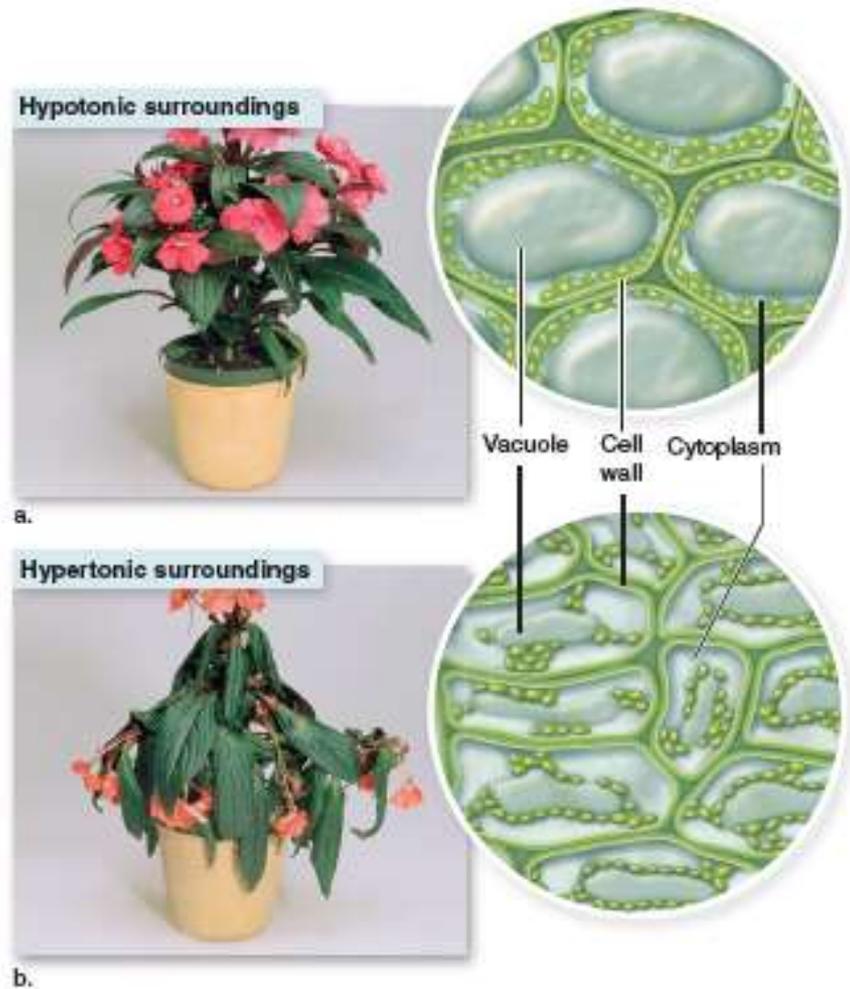


# Passive Transport Does Not Require Energy



# Passive Transport Does Not Require Energy

Osmosis determines how much water is in plant cells. Hypotonic surroundings result in a loss of **turgor pressure**, causing the plant to wilt.

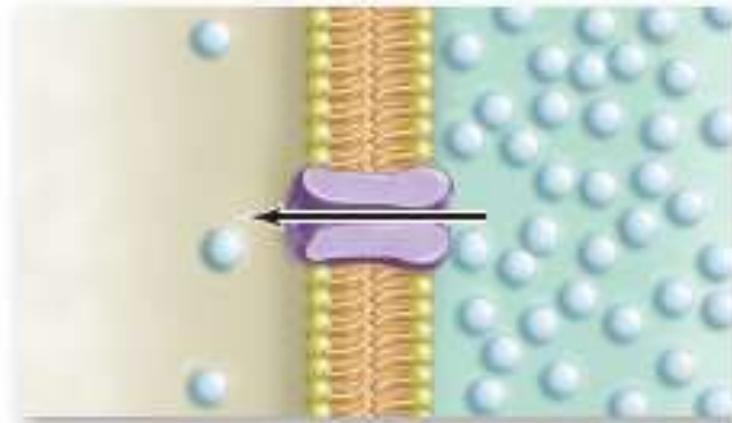


# Passive Transport Does Not Require Energy

**Facilitated diffusion** is passive transport that requires membrane proteins.

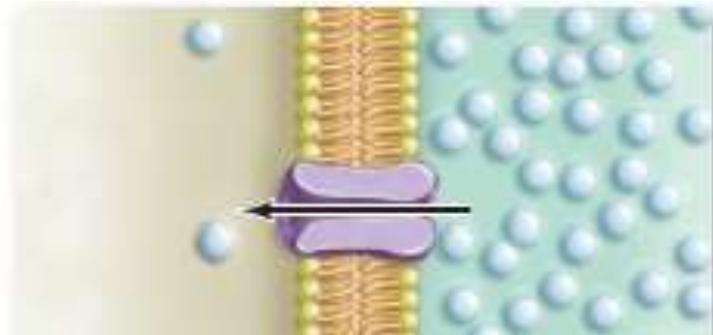
Facilitated  
diffusion

Substance moves across membrane with assistance of transport proteins.



# Membrane Proteins Transport Ions and Polar Molecules

The hydrophobic tails of phospholipids repel hydrophilic substances. Therefore, ions (such as  $\text{Cl}^-$  and  $\text{Na}^+$ ) and polar substances must pass through a protein channel to cross the membrane.

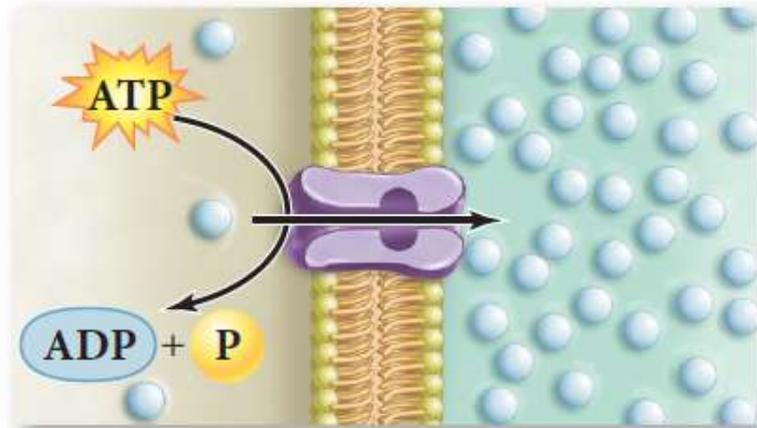


# Active Transport Requires Energy

In **active transport**, the cell uses energy and a transport protein to move a substance *against* its concentration gradient.

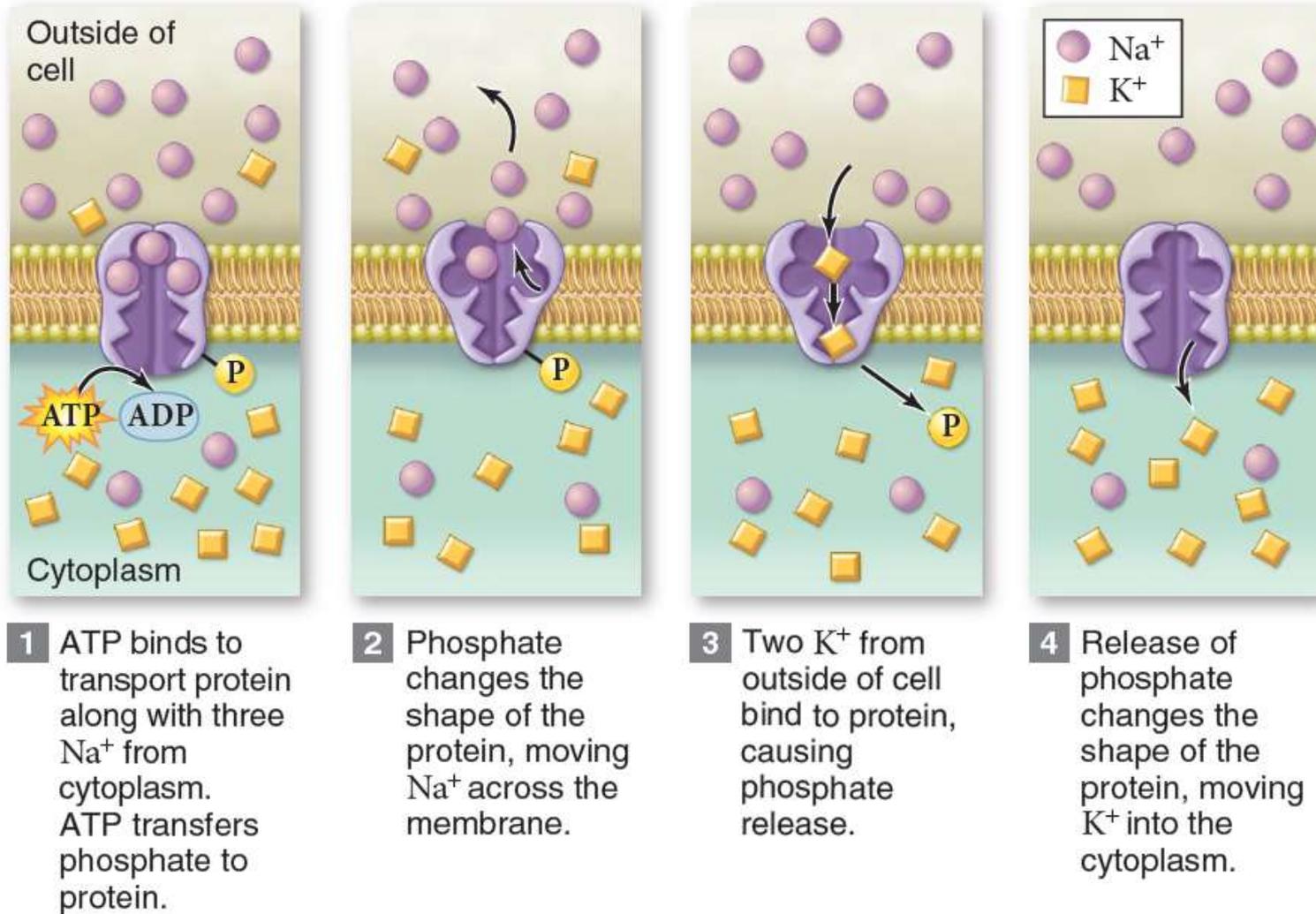
## Active transport

Net movement is against concentration gradient; requires transport protein and energy input, often from ATP.



# Active Transport Requires Energy

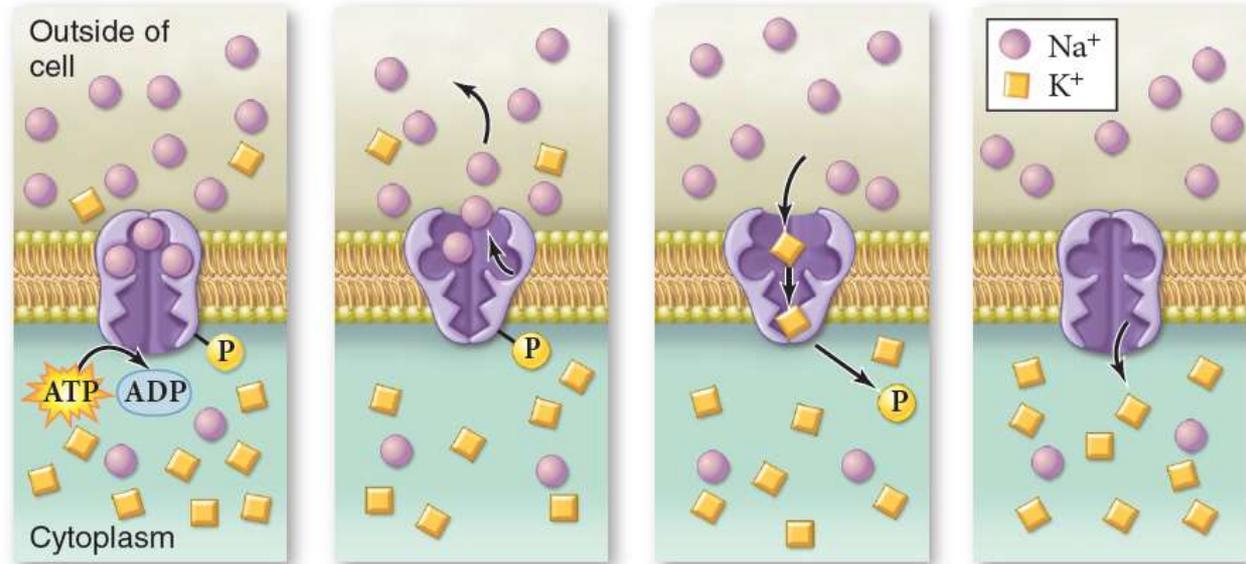
For example, the sodium-potassium pump uses ATP to transport  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{K}^+$  across the membrane.





# Clicker Question #5

Why does the sodium-potassium pump require energy? Refer to the image below.

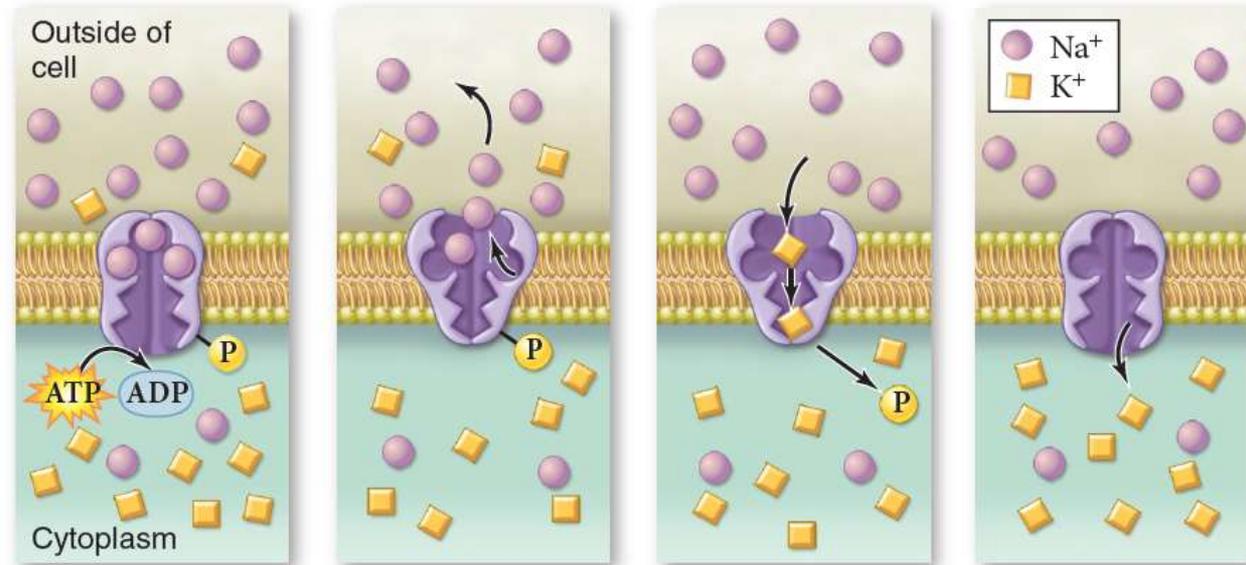


- A. It uses a membrane protein.
- B. It transports ions.
- C. It moves solutes against their concentration gradients.
- D. All of the choices are correct.



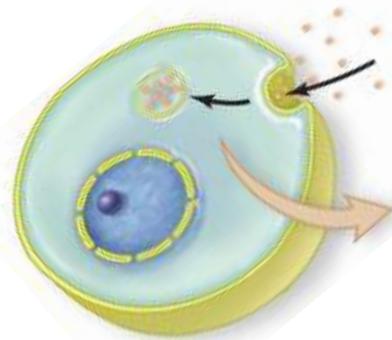
# Clicker Question #5

Why does the sodium-potassium pump require energy? Refer to the image below.



- A. It uses a membrane protein.
- B. It transports ions.
- C. It moves solutes against their concentration gradients.
- D. All of the choices are correct.

# Large Substances Enter or Leave Cells in Vesicles



**Endocytosis** allows a cell to engulf fluids and large molecules and bring them into the cell.

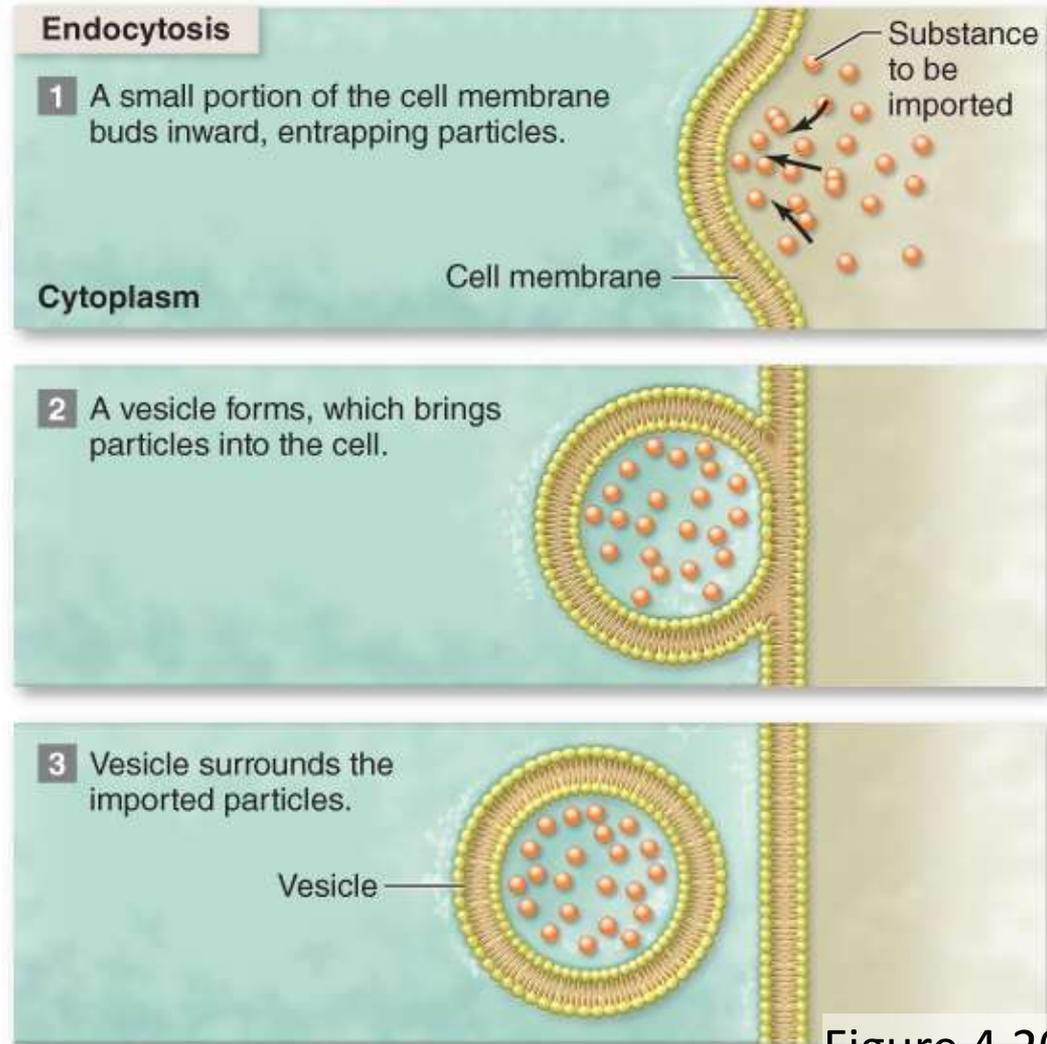
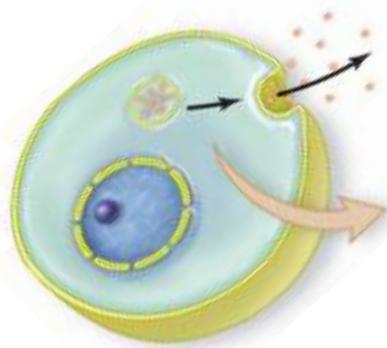
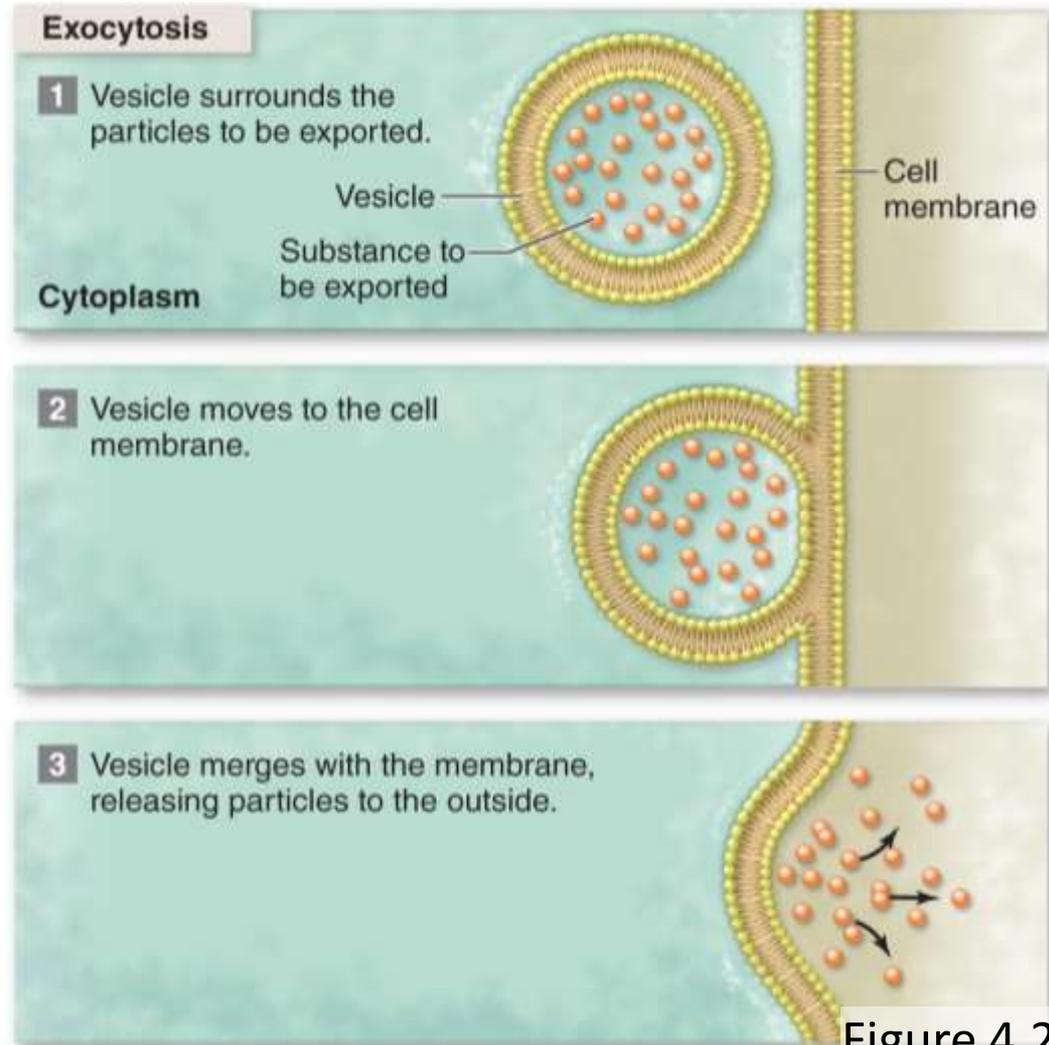


Figure 4.20

# Large Substances Enter or Leave Cells in Vesicles



**Exocytosis** uses vesicles to transport substances out of cells.



# Membrane Transport Summary

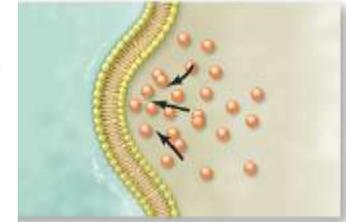
Is the substance very large?

Yes

Is the substance entering or leaving the cell?

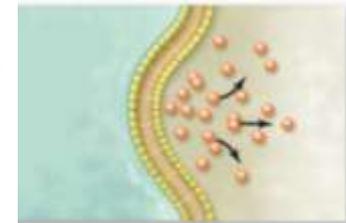
Entering

Endocytosis



Leaving

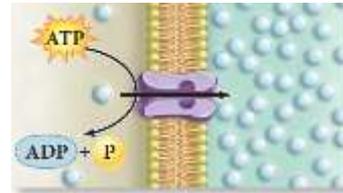
Exocytosis



Is the substance moving down its concentration gradient?

No

Active transport

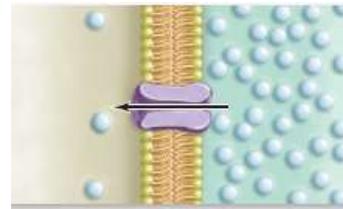


Yes

Is the substance nonpolar?

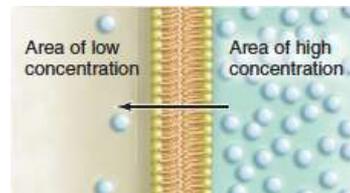
No

Facilitated diffusion



Yes

Simple diffusion

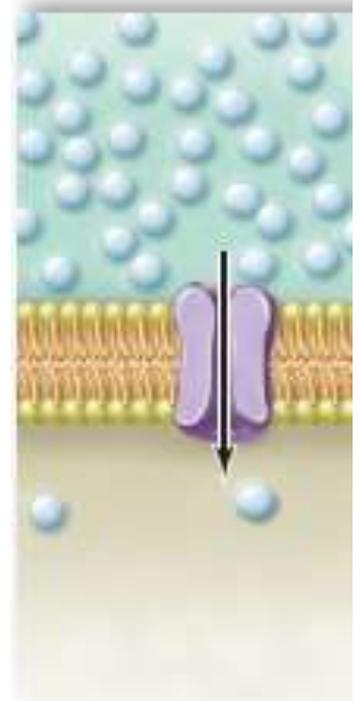


# Clicker Question #6



This solute is \_\_\_\_\_, and its transport \_\_\_\_\_ require ATP.

- A. polar ... does not
- B. polar ... does
- C. nonpolar ... does not
- D. nonpolar ... does

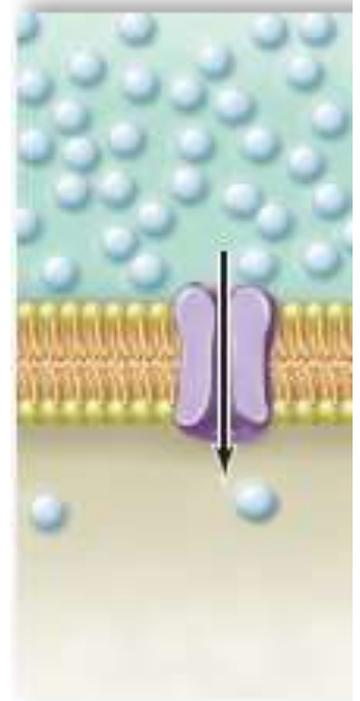




# Clicker Question #6

This solute is \_\_\_\_\_, and its transport \_\_\_\_\_ require ATP.

- A. polar ... does not
- B. polar ... does**
- C. nonpolar ... does not
- D. nonpolar ... does



# 4.5 Mastering Concepts

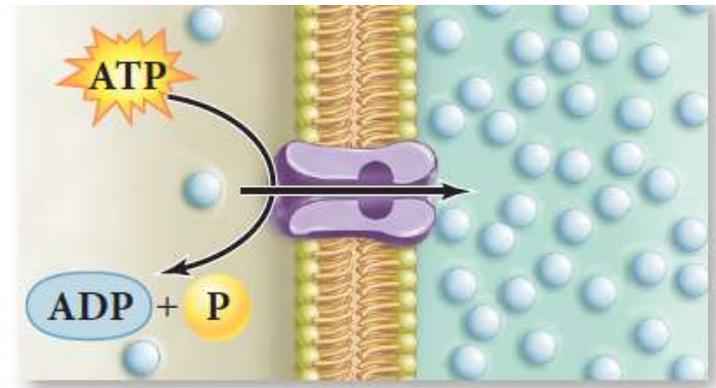


Distinguish between simple diffusion, facilitated diffusion, and active transport.

# Investigating Life: Does Natural Selection Some Genetic Illnesses?



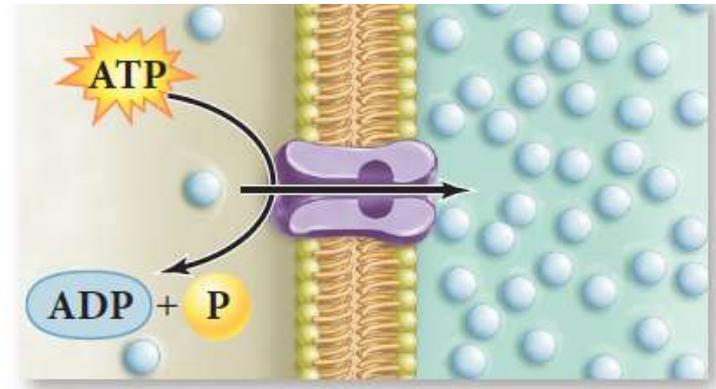
Membrane proteins called CFTR occur in tissues that secrete watery fluids, such as the linings of the lungs and intestines.



# Investigating Life: Does Natural Selection Maintain Cystic Fibrosis?



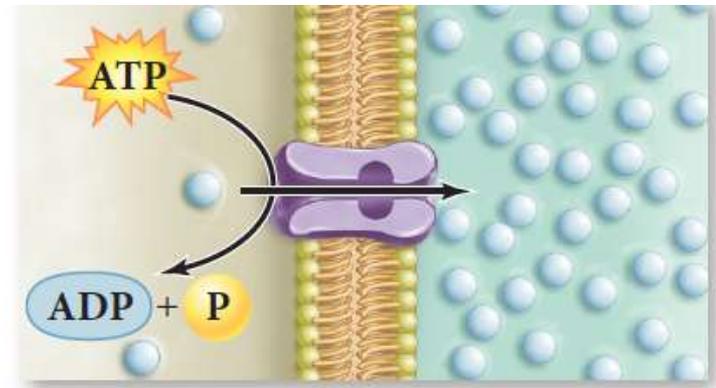
CFTR proteins move chloride ions out of cells by active transport. Water follows by osmosis.



# Investigating Life: Does Natural Selection Maintain Cystic Fibrosis?



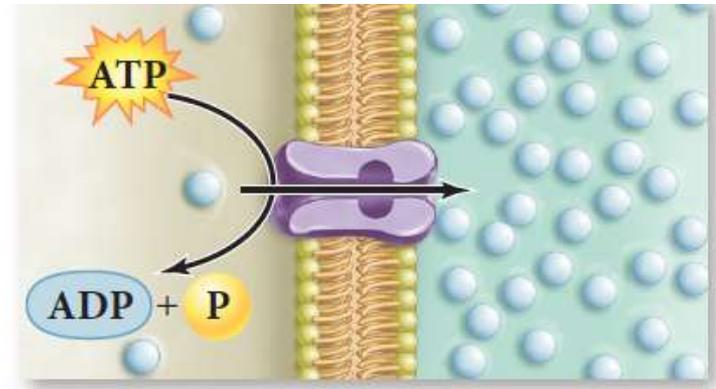
In the lungs, CFTR proteins help to thin the mucus. Patients with cystic fibrosis lack functional CFTR proteins. The mucus remains thick, making breathing difficult.



# Investigating Life: Does Natural Selection Maintain Cystic Fibrosis?



In contrast, the cholera toxin overstimulates CFTR proteins, resulting in watery diarrhea and severe dehydration.



# Investigating Life: Does Natural Selection Maintain Cystic Fibrosis?



The faulty CFTR proteins that cause cystic fibrosis might be maintained in the population by protecting against cholera.

