

Photosynthesis: using light to make food

生科系李鳳鳴

Figure 7.0-1

Poison ivy 常春藤



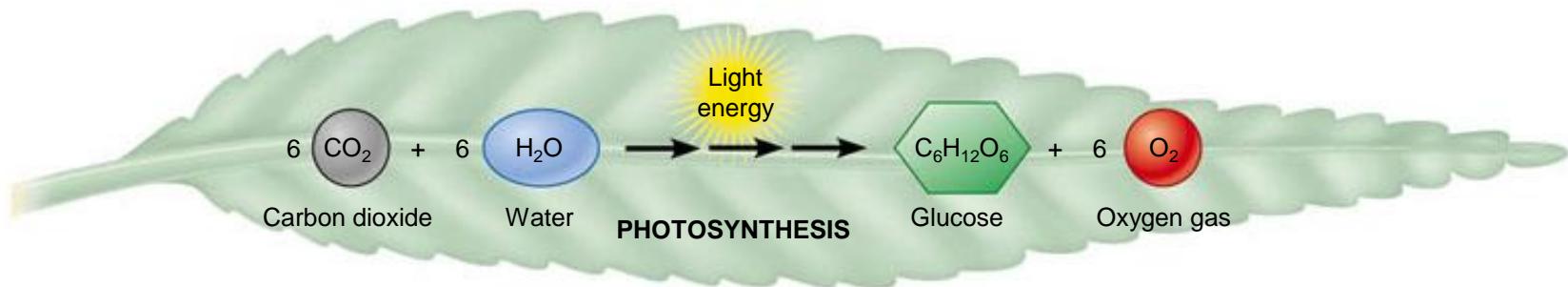
Introduction

- Poison ivy contains urushiol漆酚, a chemical that may cause itchy and oozing blisters that can last for weeks.
- Like all plants, poison ivy produces energy for its growth by photosynthesis, the process that converts light energy to the chemical energy of sugar.

Introduction

- Photosynthesis
 - removes CO₂ from the atmosphere and
 - stores it in plant matter.
- The burning of sugar in the cellular respiration of almost all organisms releases CO₂ back to the environment.
- Directly or indirectly, photosynthesis nourishes almost the entire living world

- Photosynthesis is the process by which certain organisms use light energy
 - To make sugar and oxygen gas from carbon dioxide and water



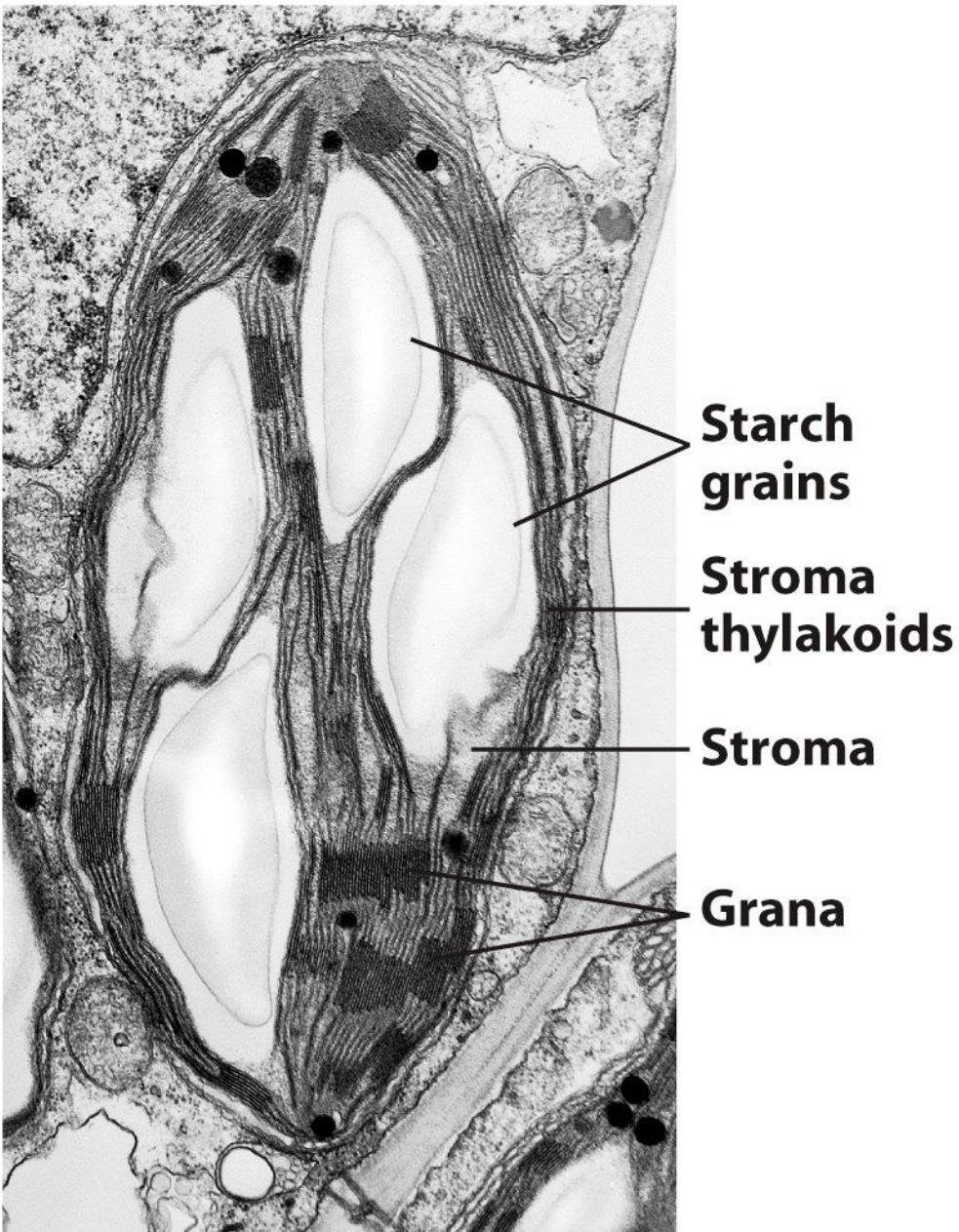


Figure 7-1
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- The Earth's supply of **fossil fuels** was formed from the remains of organisms that died hundreds of millions of years ago
- In a sense, fossil fuels represent stores of solar energy from the distant past

- As the human demand for energy grows
 - Fossil fuel supplies are dwindling
- Energy plantations
 - Are being planted to serve as a renewable energy source



Figure 10.3

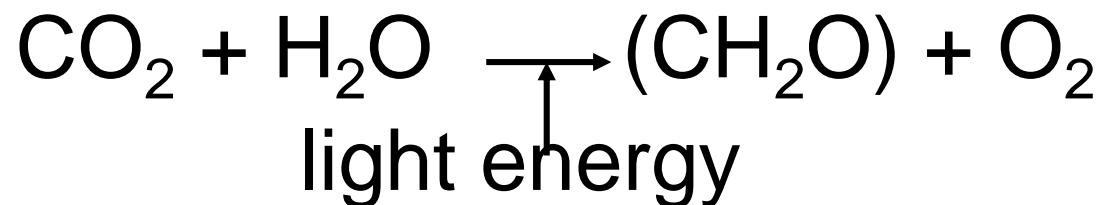


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Figure 7.3



- English scientist Joseph Priestly
burning candles - mint, mouse
- Dutch physician Jan Ingenhousz
air was “restored” only in the presence of
sunlight and only by the green parts of
plants
- 1796 $\text{CO}_2 \rightarrow \text{O}_2$



- O_2 given off by plants is derived from H_2O not from CO_2
- 1930 C. B. van Niel

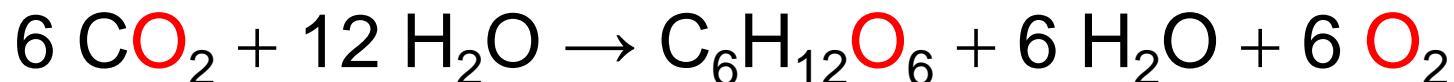


7.3 Scientists traced the process of photosynthesis using isotopes

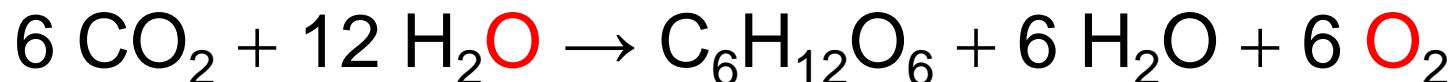
- 1941 Samuel Ruben & Martin Kamen
Oxygen-18 (^{18}O) a heavy isotope

Scientists traced the process of photosynthesis using isotopes

- Experiment 1:



- Experiment 2:



- Plants produce O₂ gas by splitting water
 - The O₂ liberated by photosynthesis
 - Is made from the oxygen in water

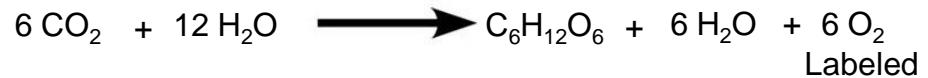


Experiment 1



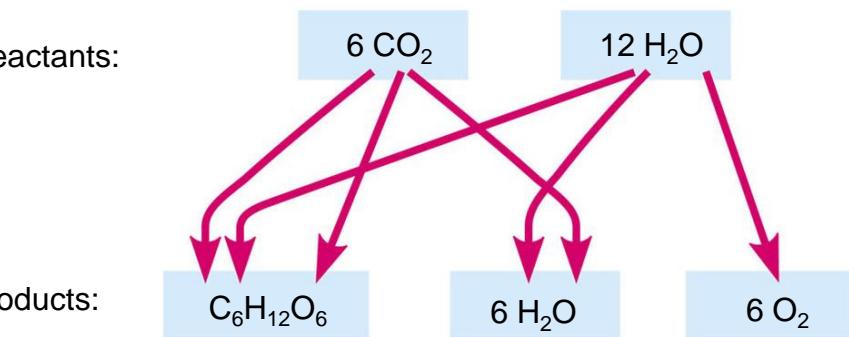
Not
labeled

Experiment 2



Labeled

Reactants:



Products:

Figure 7.3A–C

Figure 10.5

Reactants:



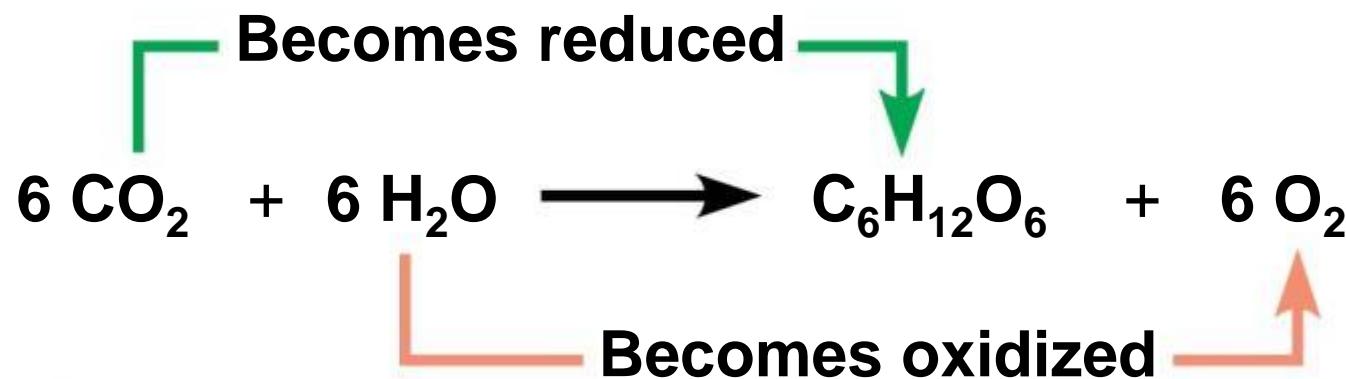
Products:



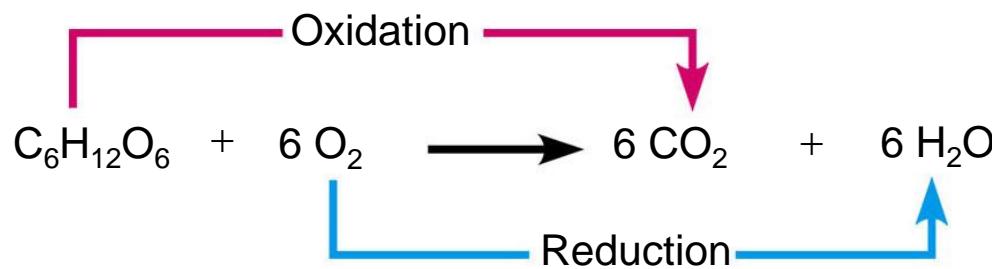
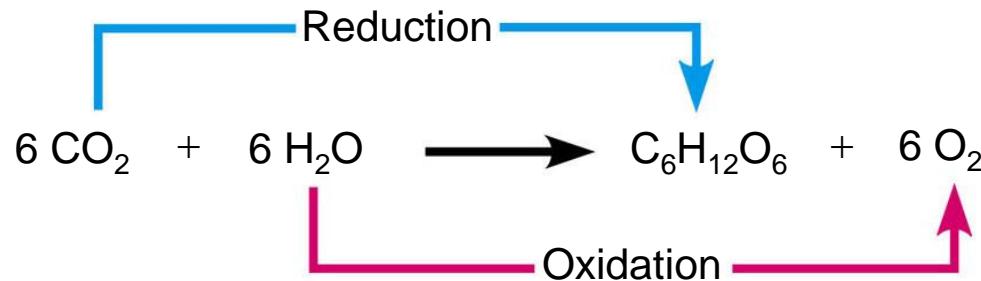
Figure 7.4a

In photosynthesis

H_2O is oxidized and CO_2 is reduced



光合作用



呼吸作用

- **Autotrophic nutrition**

Auto: self, trophos: feed

- **Producers 生產者**

- Without eating or decomposing other organisms
- They make their organic molecules from inorganic raw materials

- **Photoautotrophs 光自營性**

- **Chemoautotrophs 化學自營性**

Photoautotrophs 光自營性

- Organisms that use **light as a source of energy** to synthesize carbohydrates lipid, proteins and other organic substances. ex. Plant, algae, protista and prokaryotes
- Plants are **photoautotrophs** 光自營性生物
 - They use the energy of sunlight to make organic molecules from water and carbon dioxide
 - 每年光合作用固定250 billion 公噸醣類

Figure 10.2



(a) Plants

(b) Multicellular alga



(c) Unicellular protists

$10 \mu\text{m}$



(e) Purple sulfur bacteria

$1 \mu\text{m}$



(d) Cyanobacteria $40 \mu\text{m}$

Heterotrophic nutrition異營

Hetero: other, different

Consumers消費者 e.g. Animal

Decomposers分解者 e.g. Fungi 真菌, many types of bacteria

Figure 7.2-0

Leaf Cross Section

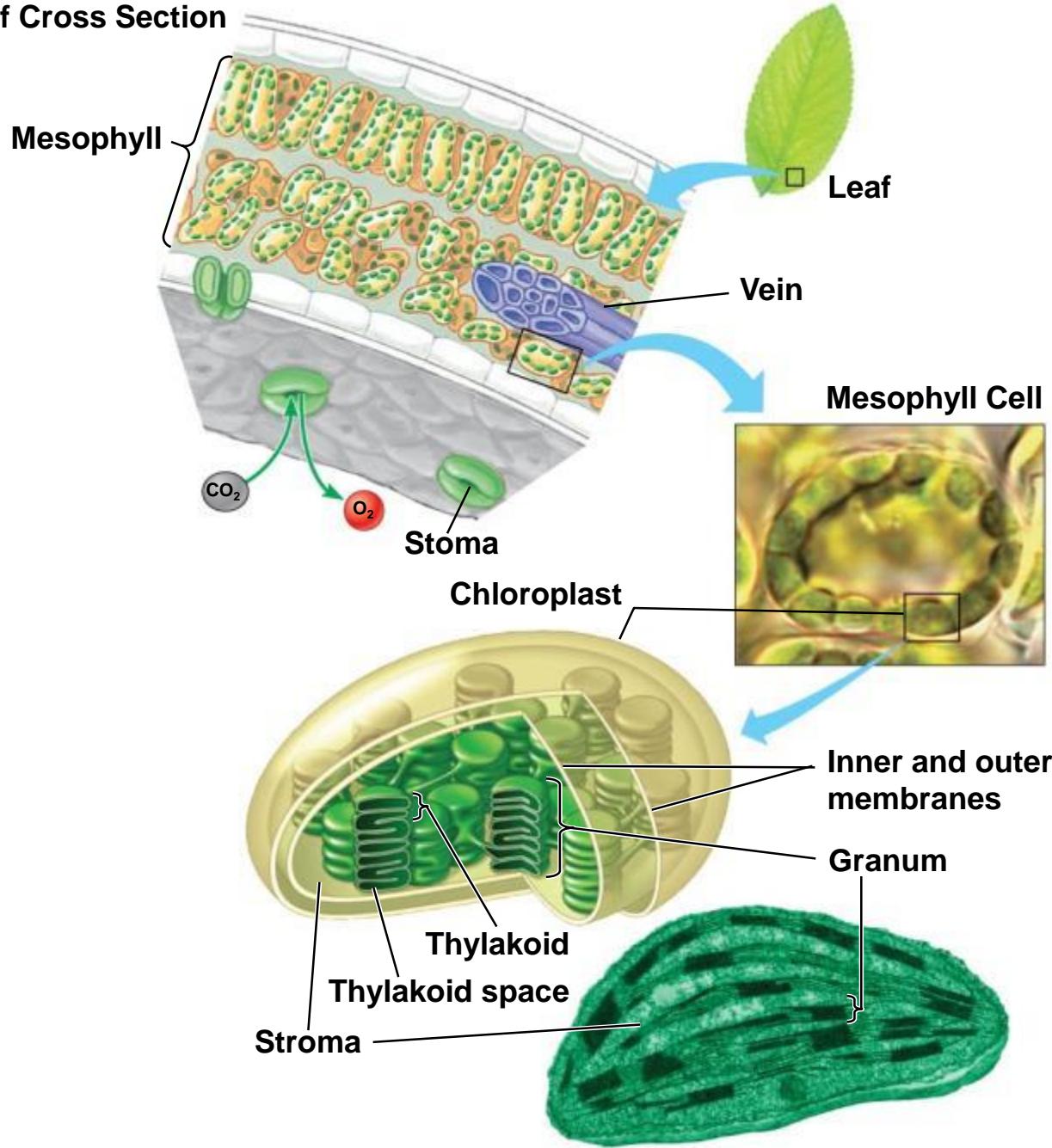
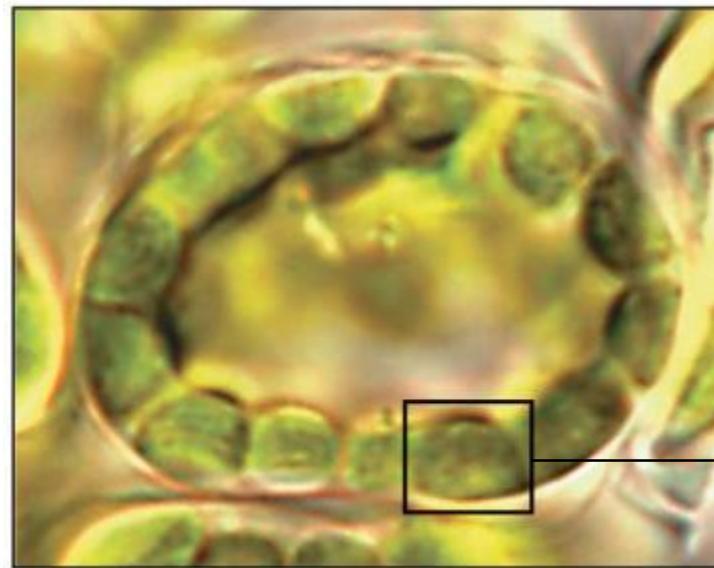


Figure 7.2-3

Mesophyll Cell



Chloroplast

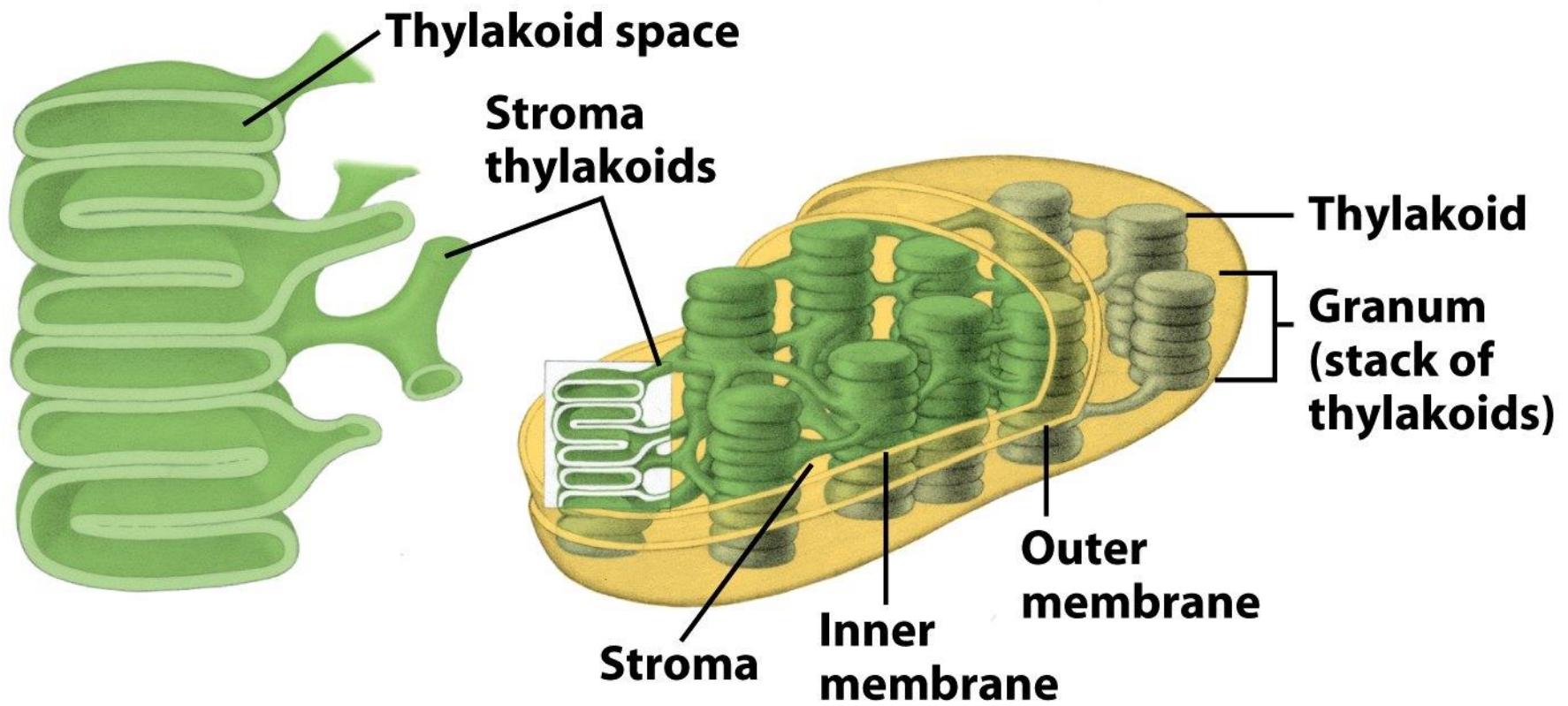
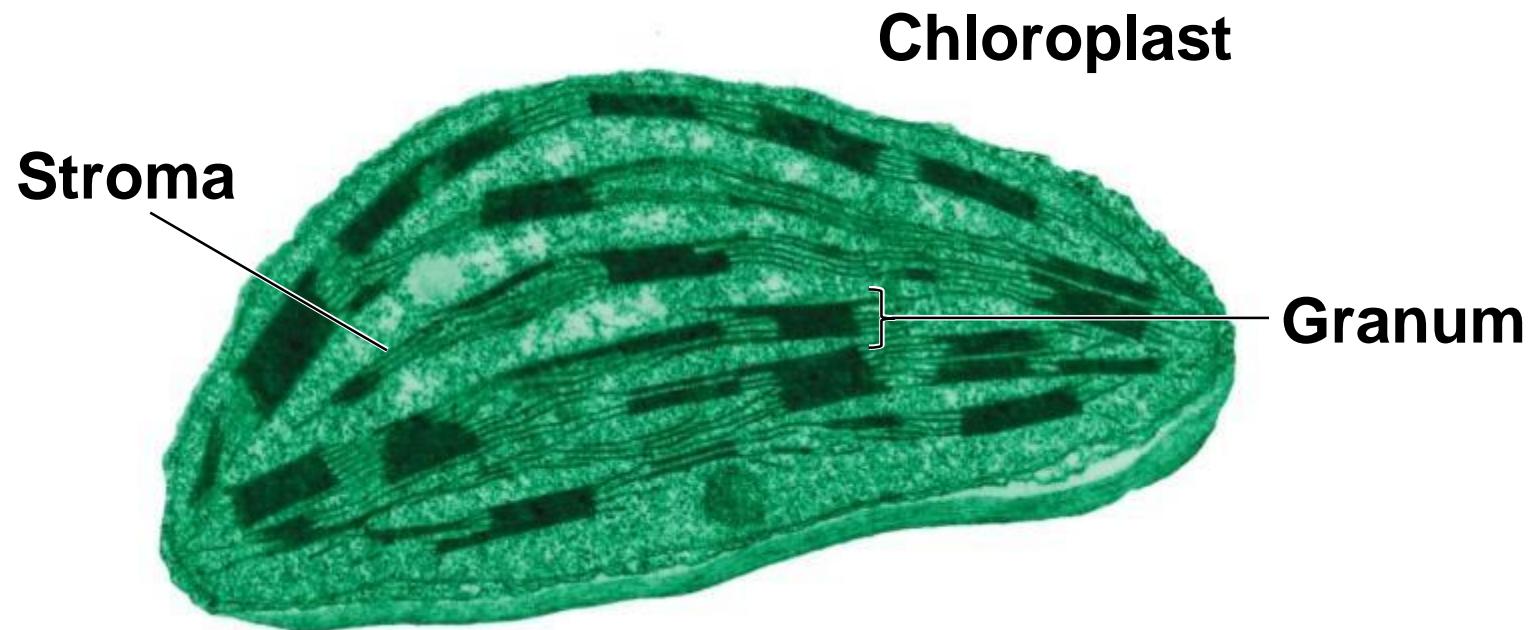


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Figure 7.2-4



Overview: Photosynthesis occurs in two stages linked by ATP and NADPH

- The complete process of photosynthesis consists of **two linked sets of reactions**
 - **The light reactions** and the **Calvin cycle**

- The light reactions
 - Convert light energy to chemical energy and produce O_2
- The Calvin cycle assembles sugar molecules from CO_2
 - Using ATP and NADPH from the light reactions

7.5 The two stages of photosynthesis are linked by ATP and NADPH

- Photosynthesis occurs in two stages.
 1. The **light reactions** occur **in the thylakoid membranes**. In these reactions
 - water is split, providing a source of electrons and giving off oxygen as a by-product,
 - ATP is generated from ADP and a phosphate group, and
 - light energy is absorbed by the chlorophyll molecules to drive the transfer of electrons and H⁺ from water to the electron acceptor **NADP⁺**, reducing it to NADPH.
 - NADPH, produced by the light reactions, provides the “reducing power” to the Calvin cycle.

The two stages of photosynthesis are linked by ATP and NADPH

2. The second stage is the **Calvin cycle**, which occurs in the stroma of the chloroplast.
 - The Calvin cycle is a cyclic series of reactions that assembles sugar molecules using CO₂ and the energy-rich products of the light reactions.
 - During the Calvin cycle, CO₂ is incorporated into organic compounds in a process called **carbon fixation**.
 - After carbon fixation, the carbon compounds are reduced to sugars.
 - The Calvin cycle is often called the dark reactions, or light-independent reactions, because none of the steps requires light directly.

Figure 10.6-1

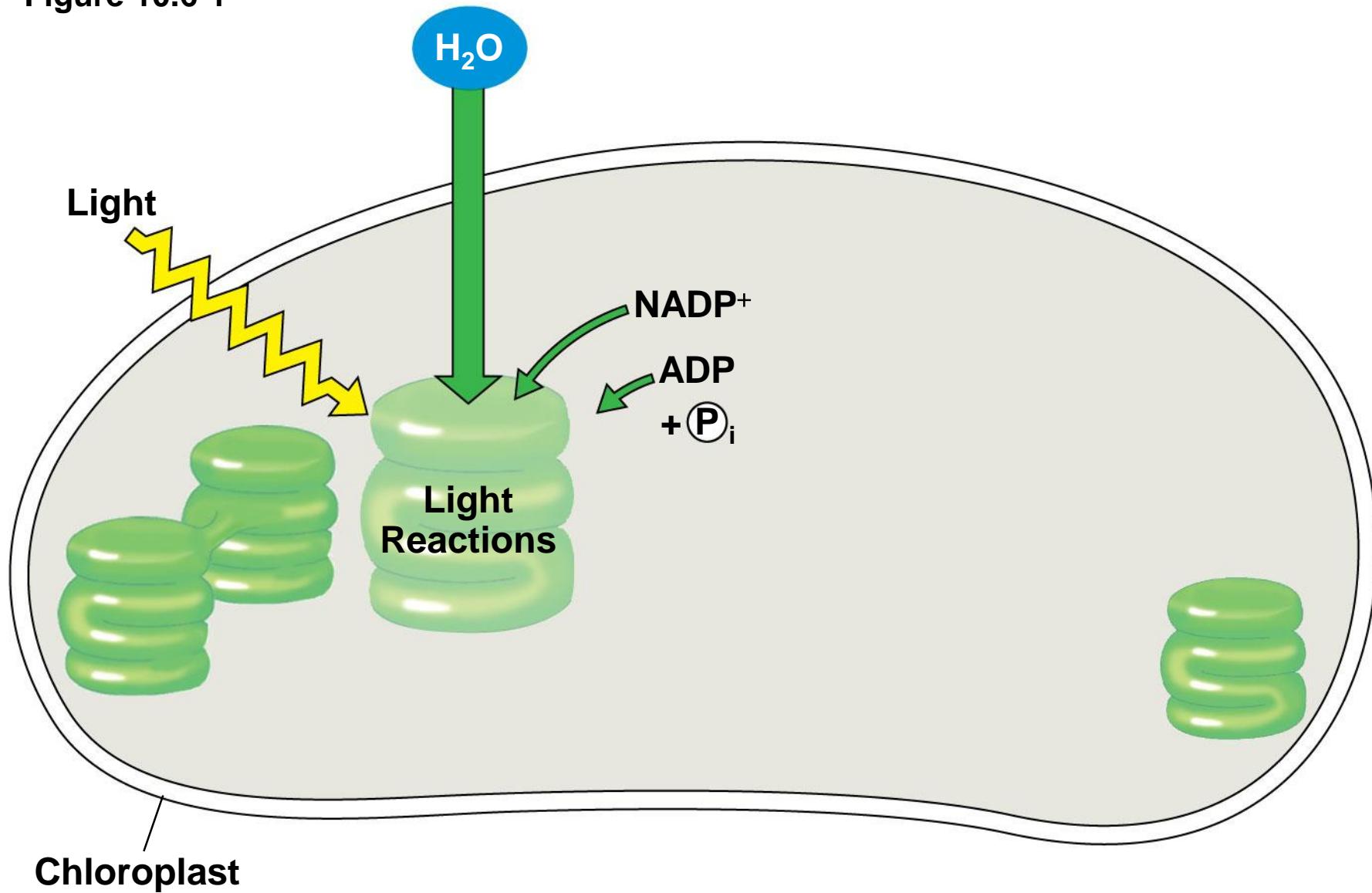


Figure 10.6-2

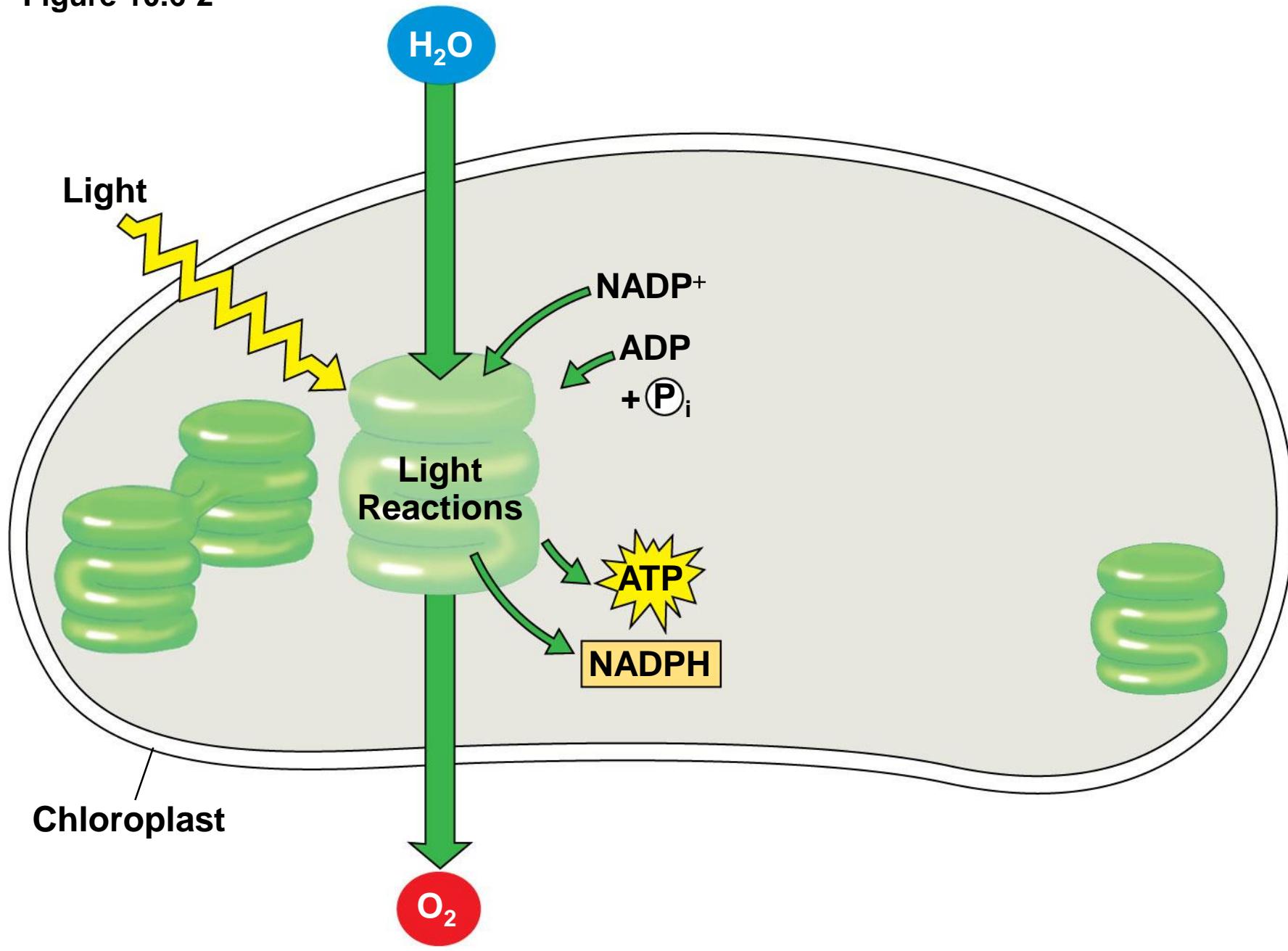


Figure 10.6-3

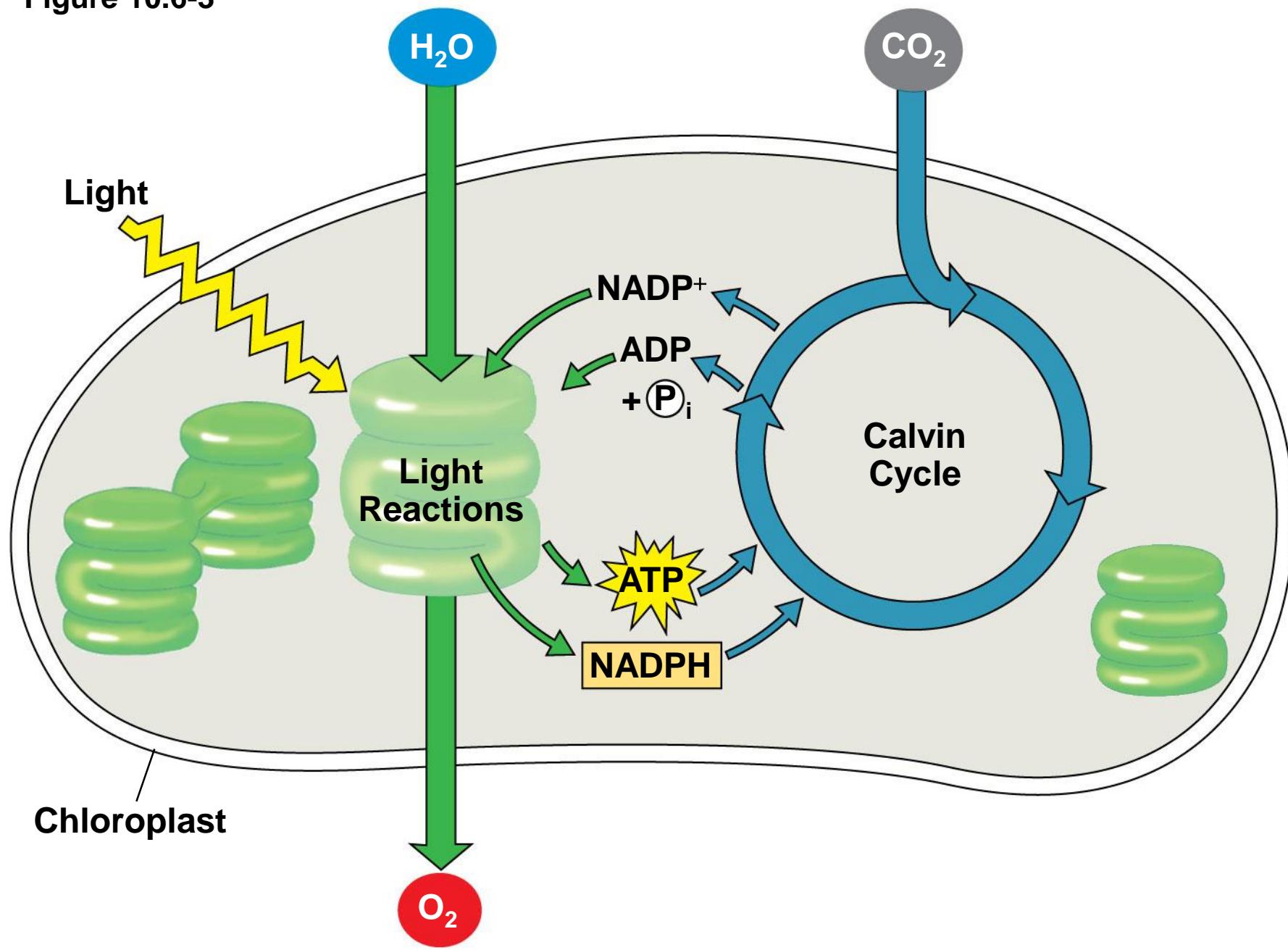
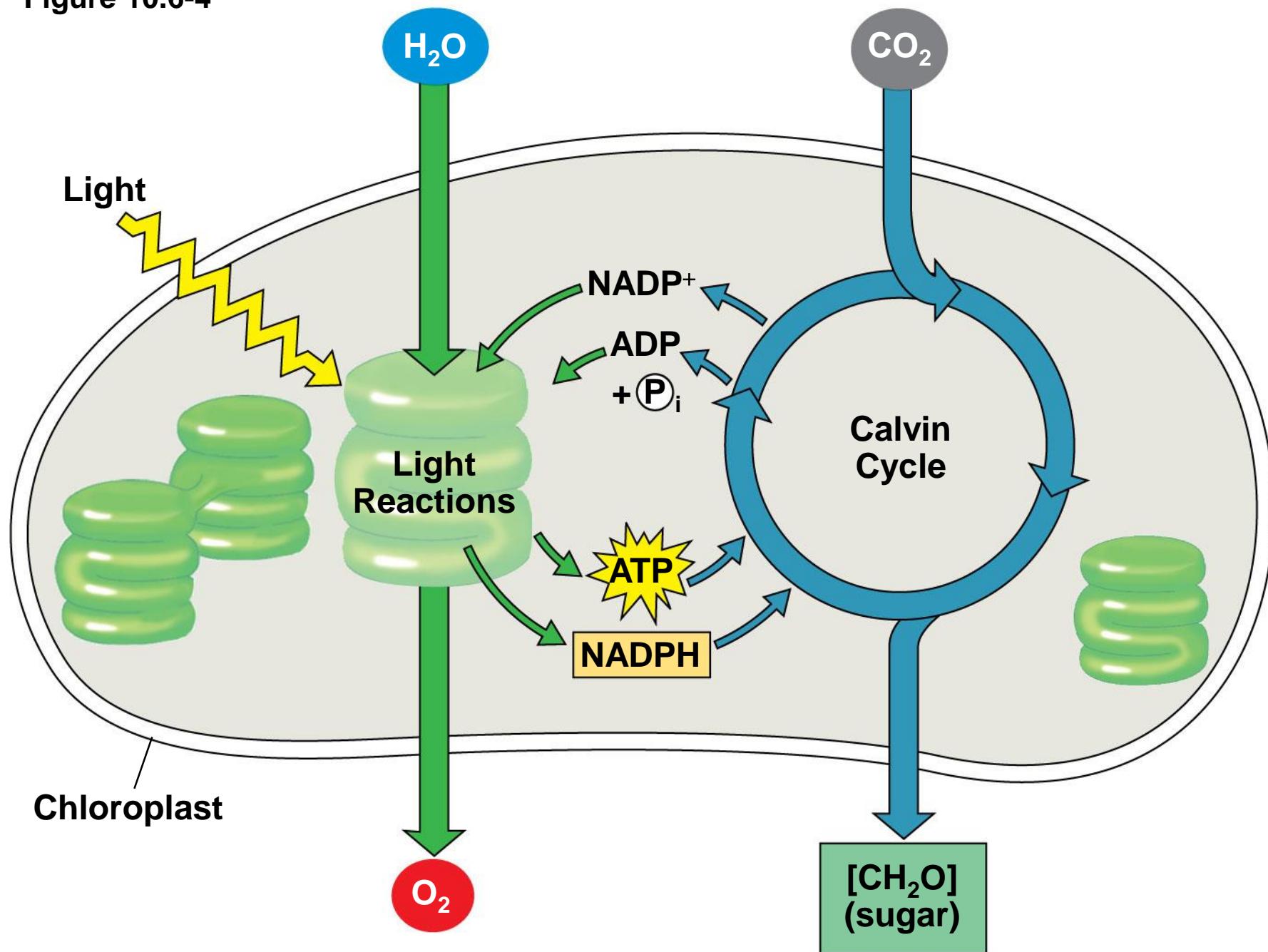


Figure 10.6-4



THE LIGHT REACTIONS: CONVERTING SOLAR ENERGY TO CHEMICAL ENERGY

7.6 Visible radiation absorbed by pigments drives the light reactions

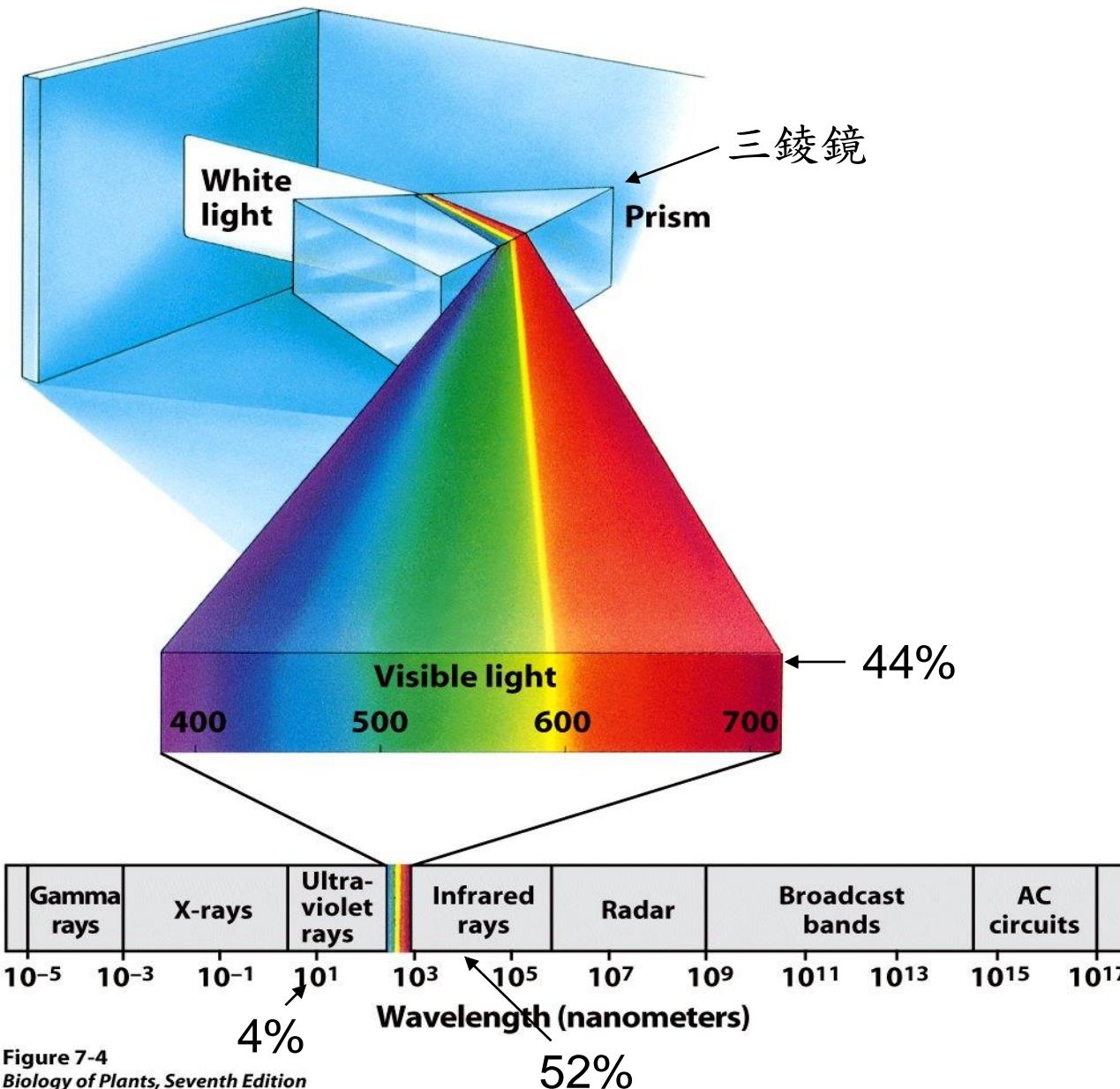
- Sunlight contains energy called **electromagnetic energy or radiation**.
 - Visible light is only a small part of the **electromagnetic spectrum** 電磁光譜, the full range of electromagnetic wavelengths.
 - Electromagnetic energy travels in waves.
 - The **wavelength** 波長 is the distance between the crests of two adjacent waves.

The Light Reactions: Converting Solar Energy to Chemical Energy

Figure 10.1

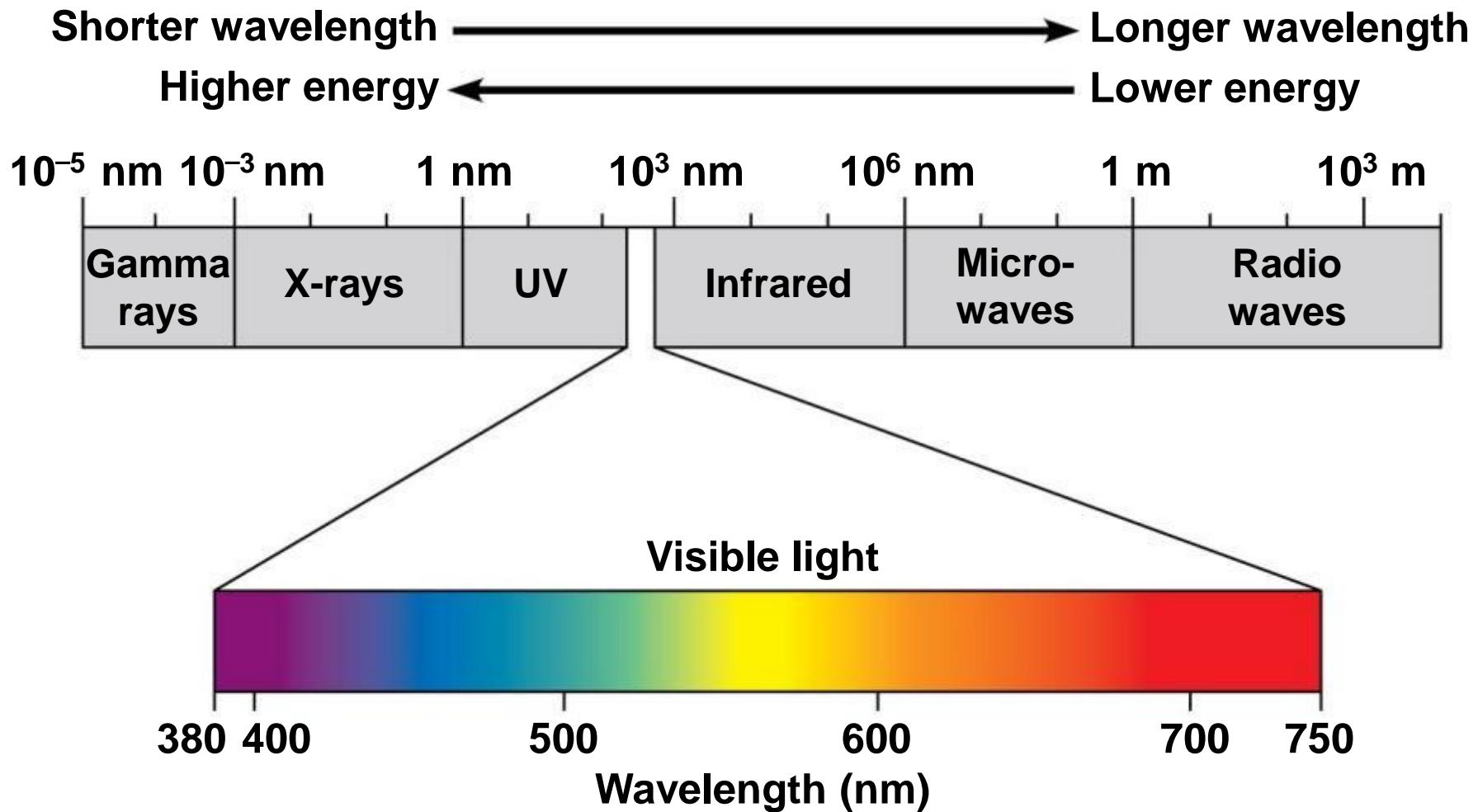


Electromagnetic spectrum 電磁光譜



- The electromagnetic spectrum
 - Is the entire range of electromagnetic energy, or radiation

Figure 7.6a



7.6 Visible radiation absorbed by pigments drives the light reactions

- Light behaves as discrete packets of energy called photons.
 - A **photon** 光子 is a fixed quantity of light energy.
 - The shorter the wavelength, the greater the energy.

1905 Einstein : light consists of packets
of energy called **photon**
光子

- the intensity of light depends on the number of photons absorbed per unit of time
- each photon carries a fixed amount of energy

The nature of light

- the different wavelengths as different colors
- the energy of a photon is a **quantum** (pl. **quanta**) 光量子.
- the longer the wavelength, the less energy per photon
- Sunlight consists of about 4% ultraviolet radiation,
52% infrared radiation, 44% visible light.

The nature of light

- About 1/3 of the light hitting the atmosphere is reflected back to space, and only about 1% of the light is used for photosynthesis
- Light is the part of the electromagnetic spectrum having wavelengths visible to the human eye (380-760 nm)

The nature of light

- the slower the vibration, the less energy carried by the photon
- the distance moved by the photon during a complete vibration is referred to as the photon's wavelength (λ)
- 單位 nm (10^{-9})

Ultraviolet radiation (uv)

- contains too much energy for most biological system its high-energy photons often drive electrons from molecules so called **ionizing radiation**
- UV breaks weak bonds & cause sunburn absorbed by O_2 , O_3 & glass

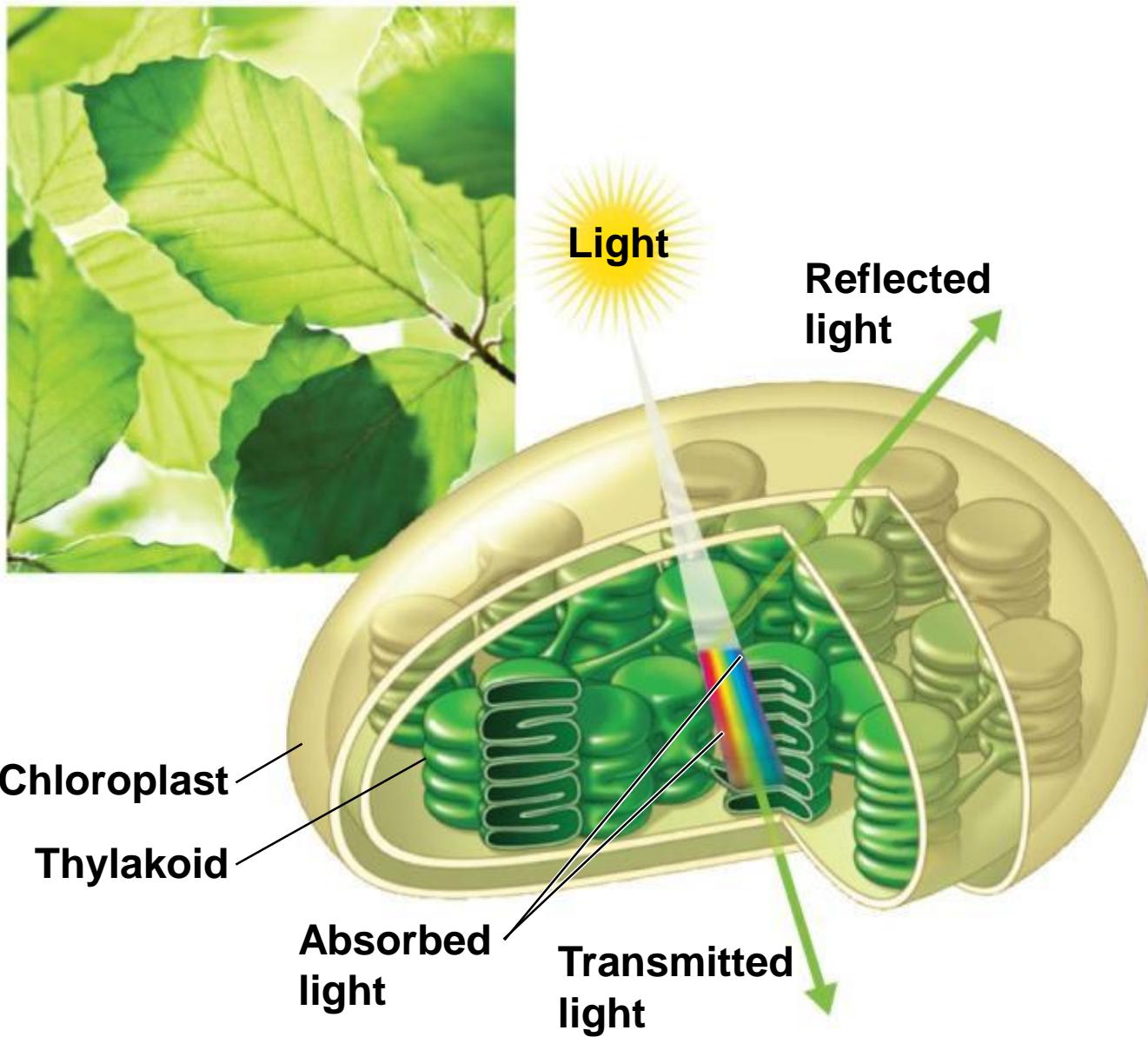
Infrared radiation (IR)

- Doesn't contain enough energy per photon to be useful to living systems.
- Cells absorb IR, but this energy is insufficient to excite electrons
- Most of the energy of IR is converted immediately to heat.
- IR is absorbed by water & CO₂, but goes through glass.

7.6 Visible radiation absorbed by pigments drives the light reactions

- Plant pigments 色素
 - are built into the thylakoid membrane,
 - absorb some wavelengths of light, and
 - reflect or transmit other wavelengths.
- We see the color of the wavelengths that are transmitted. For example, chlorophyll transmits green wavelengths.

Figure 7.6b-0

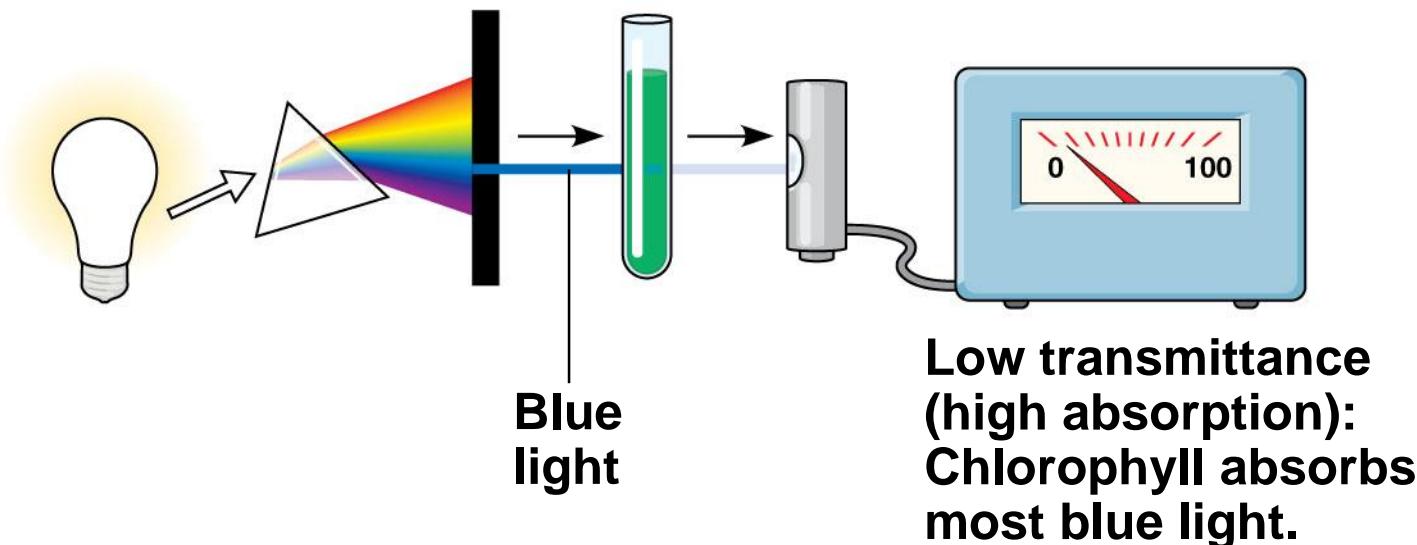
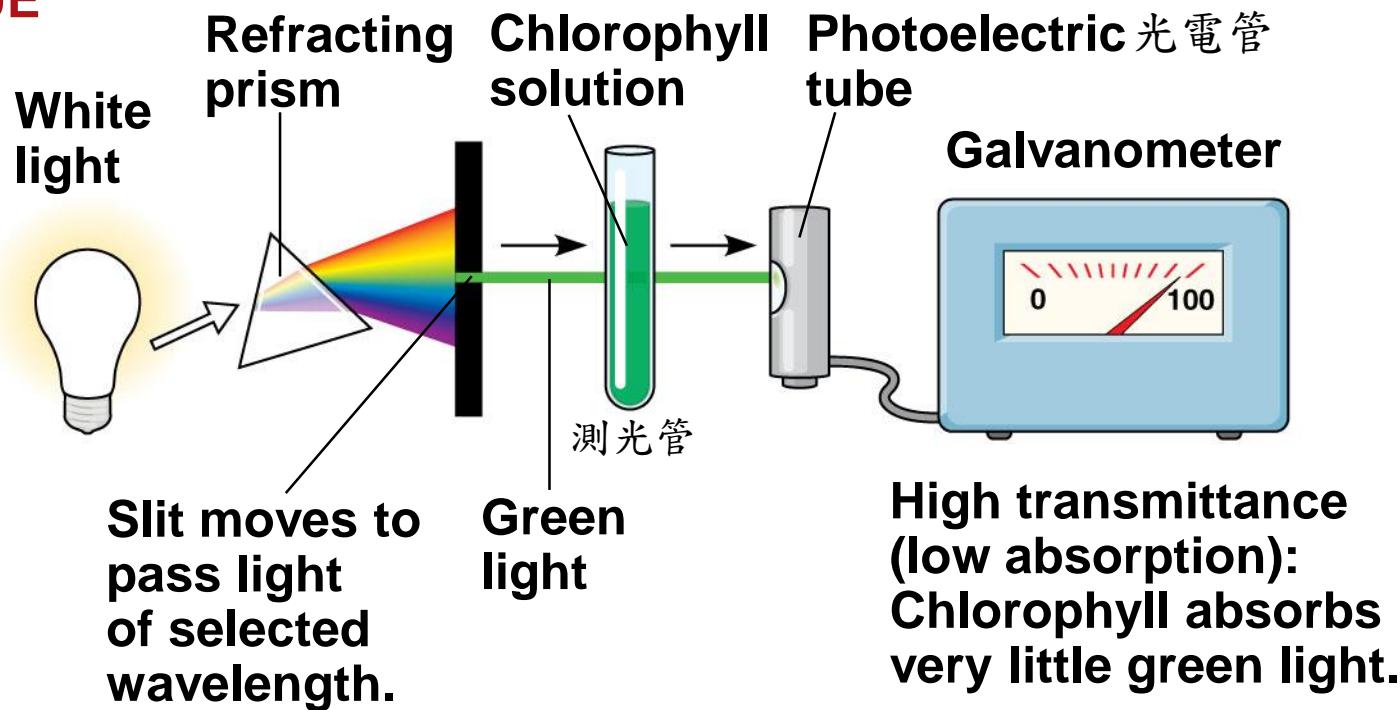


- An **absorption spectrum** 吸收光譜
 - Is a graph plotting light absorption versus wavelength

Figure 10.9

TECHNIQUE

分光光度計



Visible radiation absorbed by pigments drives the light reactions

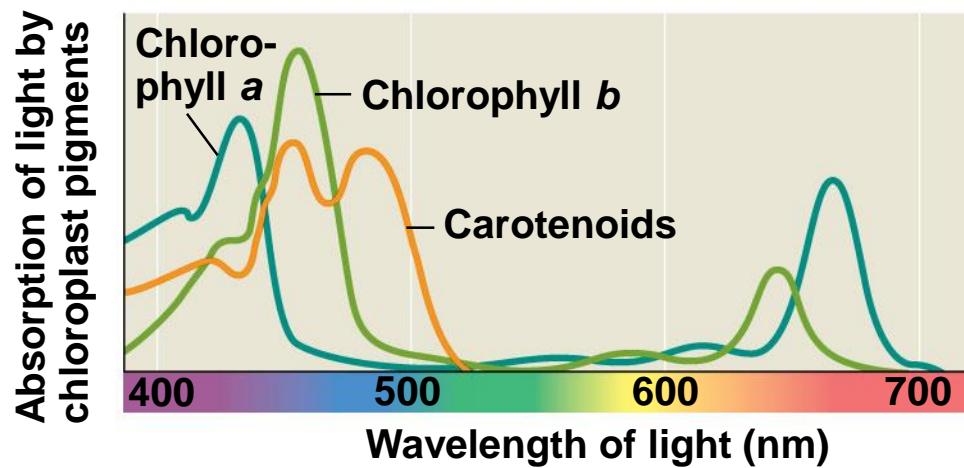
- Chloroplasts contain several different pigments, which absorb light of different wavelengths.
 - **Chlorophyll a** absorbs blue-violet and red light and reflects green.
 - **Chlorophyll b** absorbs blue and orange and reflects yellow-green.

– Carotenoids 胡蘿蔔素

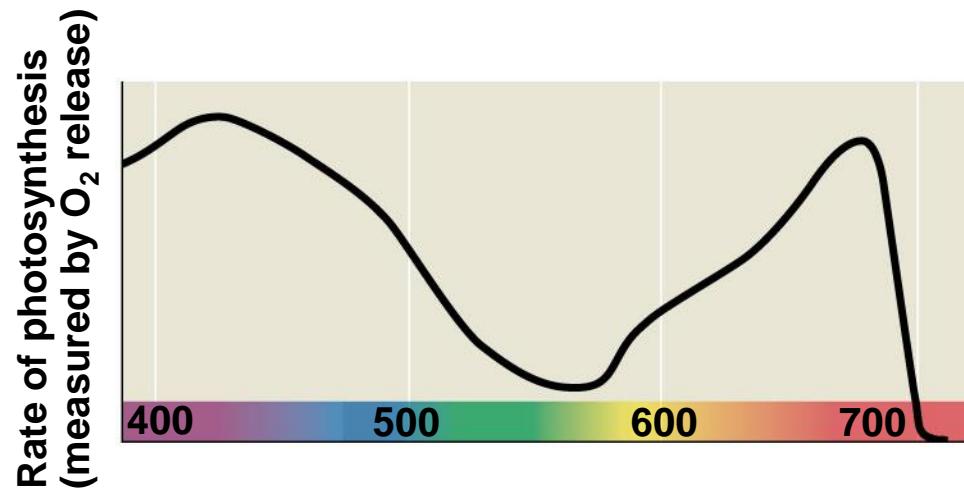
- broaden the spectrum of colors that can drive photosynthesis and
- **provide photoprotection**, absorbing and dissipating excessive light energy that would otherwise damage chlorophyll or interact with oxygen to form reactive oxidative molecules.

Figure 10.10 **RESULTS**

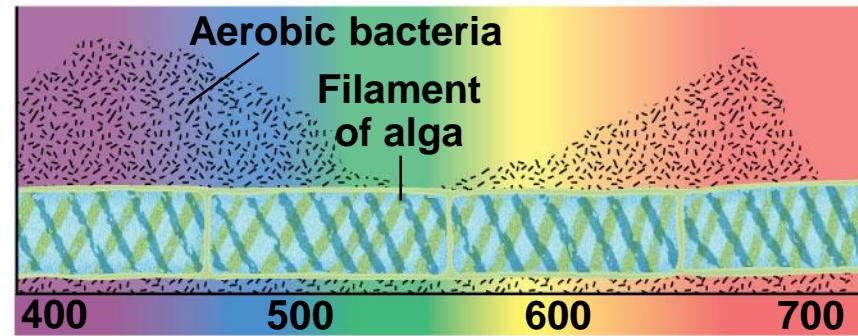
(a) Absorption spectra



(b) Action spectrum



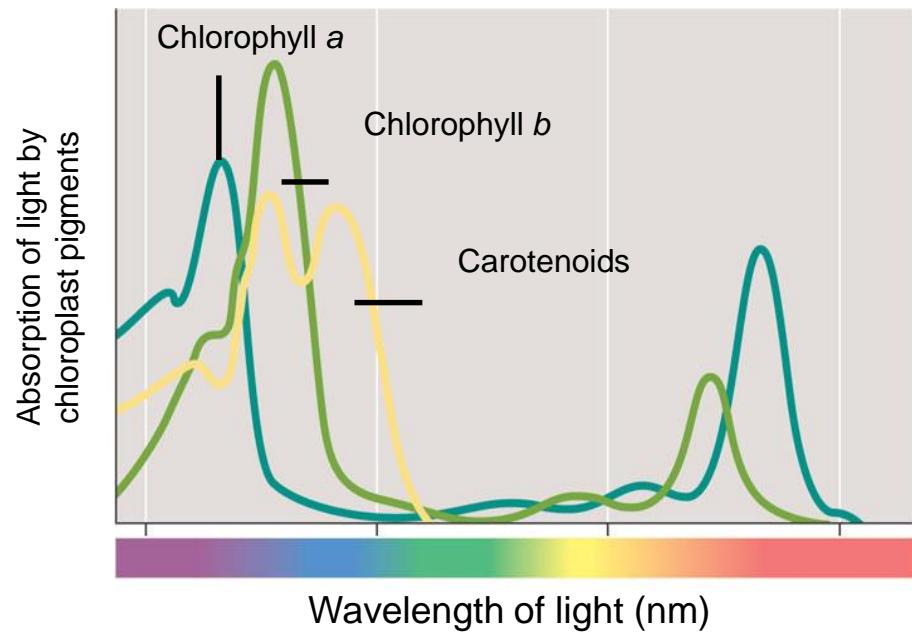
(c) Engelmann's experiment



- The **absorption spectra** 吸收光譜 of three types of pigments in chloroplasts

EXPERIMENT Experiments helped reveal which wavelengths of light are photosynthetically important. The results are shown below.

RESULTS



(a) Absorption spectra. The three curves show the wavelengths of light best absorbed by three types of chloroplast pigments.

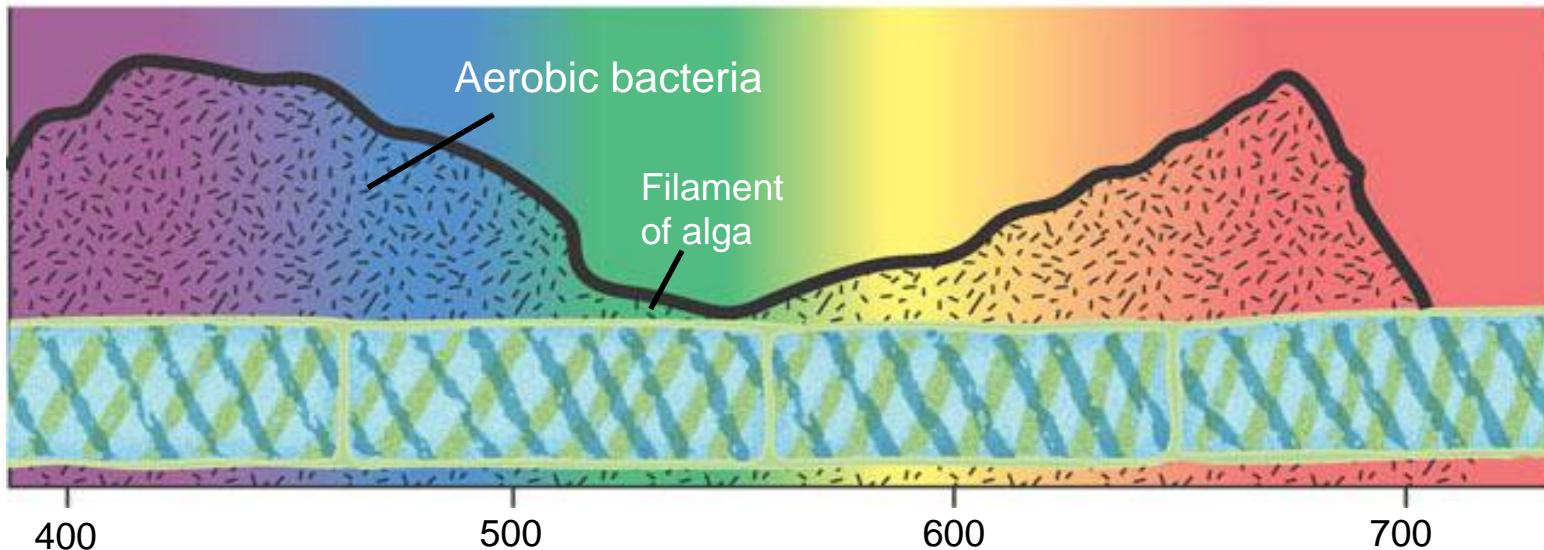
Figure 10.9

- The action spectrum of a pigment
 - Profiles the relative effectiveness of different wavelengths of radiation in driving photosynthesis



(b) **Action spectrum.** This graph plots the rate of photosynthesis versus wavelength. The resulting action spectrum resembles the absorption spectrum for chlorophyll *a* but does not match exactly (see part a). This is partly due to the absorption of light by accessory pigments such as chlorophyll *b* and carotenoids.

- The action spectrum 作用光譜 for photosynthesis
 - Was first demonstrated by Theodor W. Engelmann



(c) Engelmann's experiment. In 1883, Theodor W. Engelmann illuminated a filamentous alga with light that had been passed through a prism, exposing different segments of the alga to different wavelengths. He used aerobic bacteria, which concentrate near an oxygen source, to determine which segments of the alga were releasing the most O₂ and thus photosynthesizing most. Bacteria congregated in greatest numbers around the parts of the alga illuminated with violet-blue or red light. Notice the close match of the bacterial distribution to the action spectrum in part b.

CONCLUSION

Light in the violet-blue and red portions of the spectrum are most effective in driving photosynthesis.

The photochemical reaction:

- Oxidize water
- Release O₂
- Produce ATP
- Reduced NADP⁺

- Chlorophyll a

Is the main photosynthetic pigment

- Chlorophyll b

Is an **accessory pigment** 輔助色素

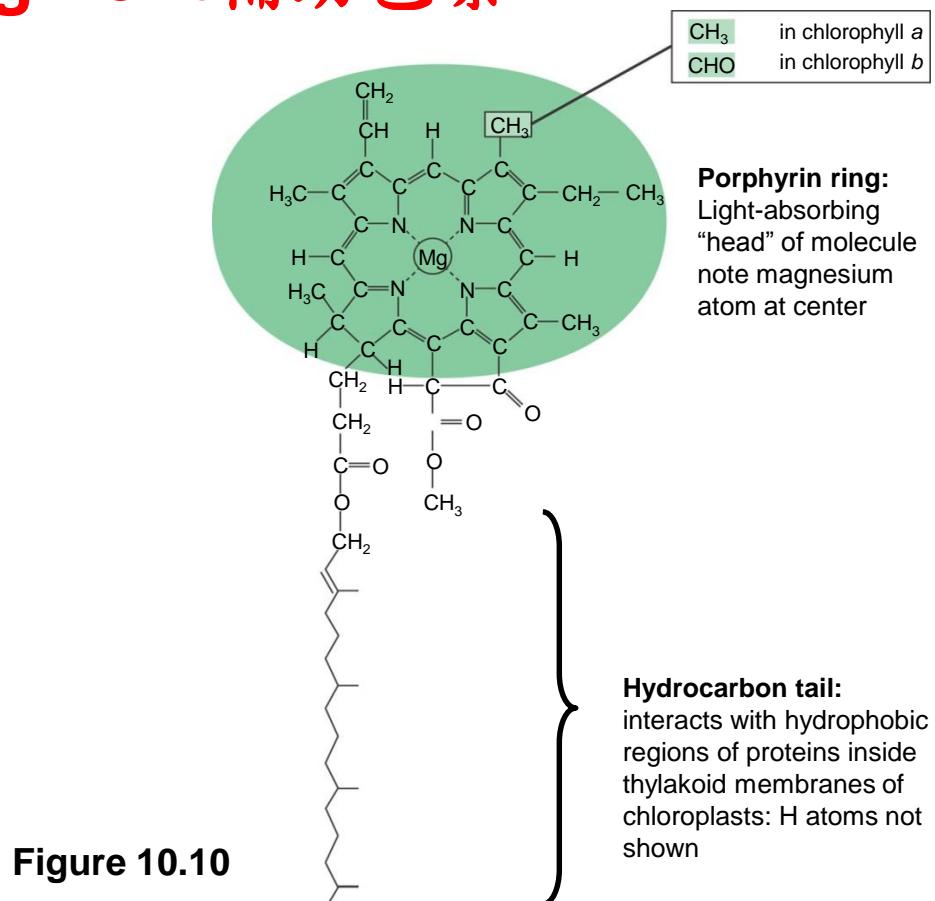
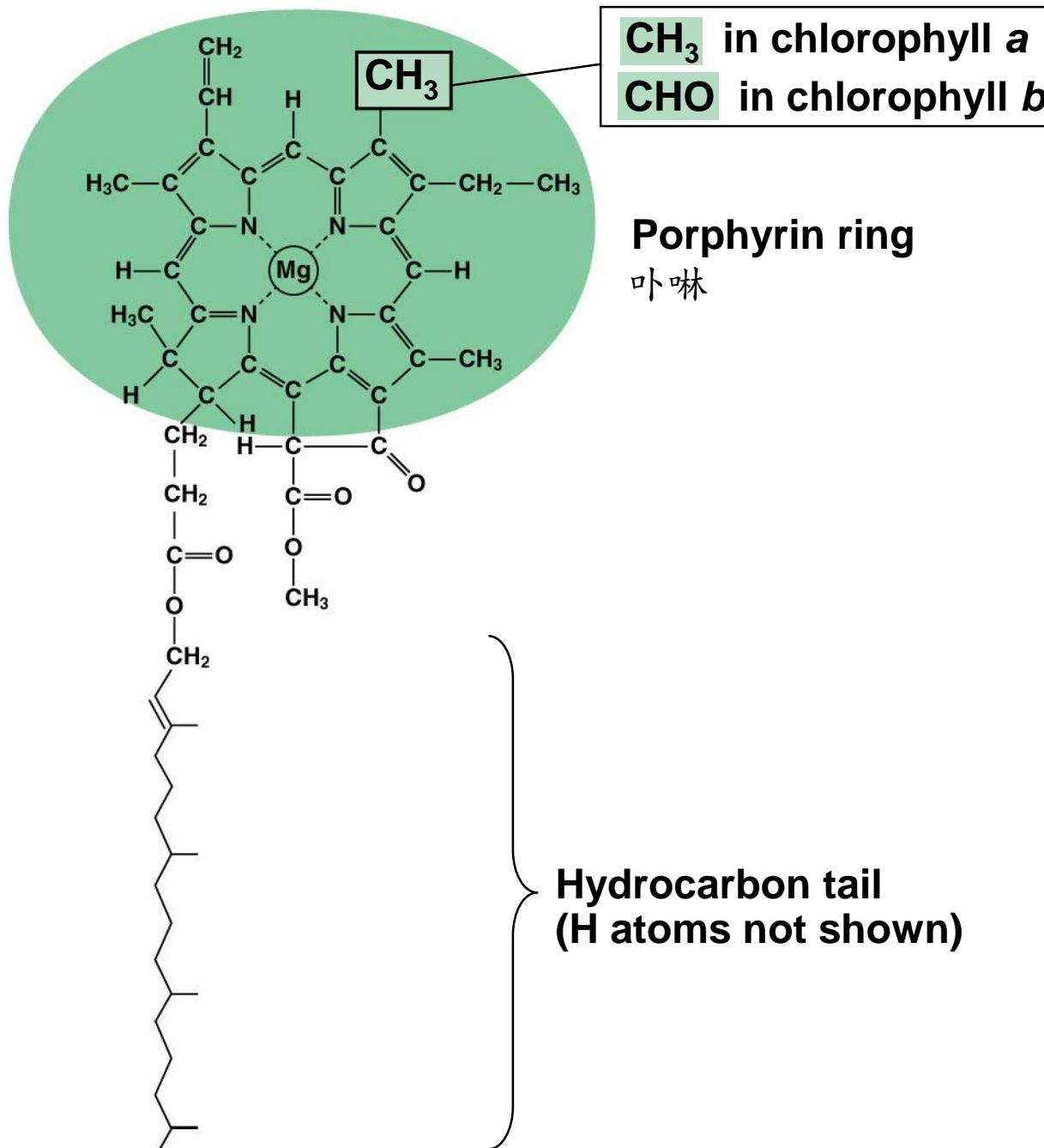
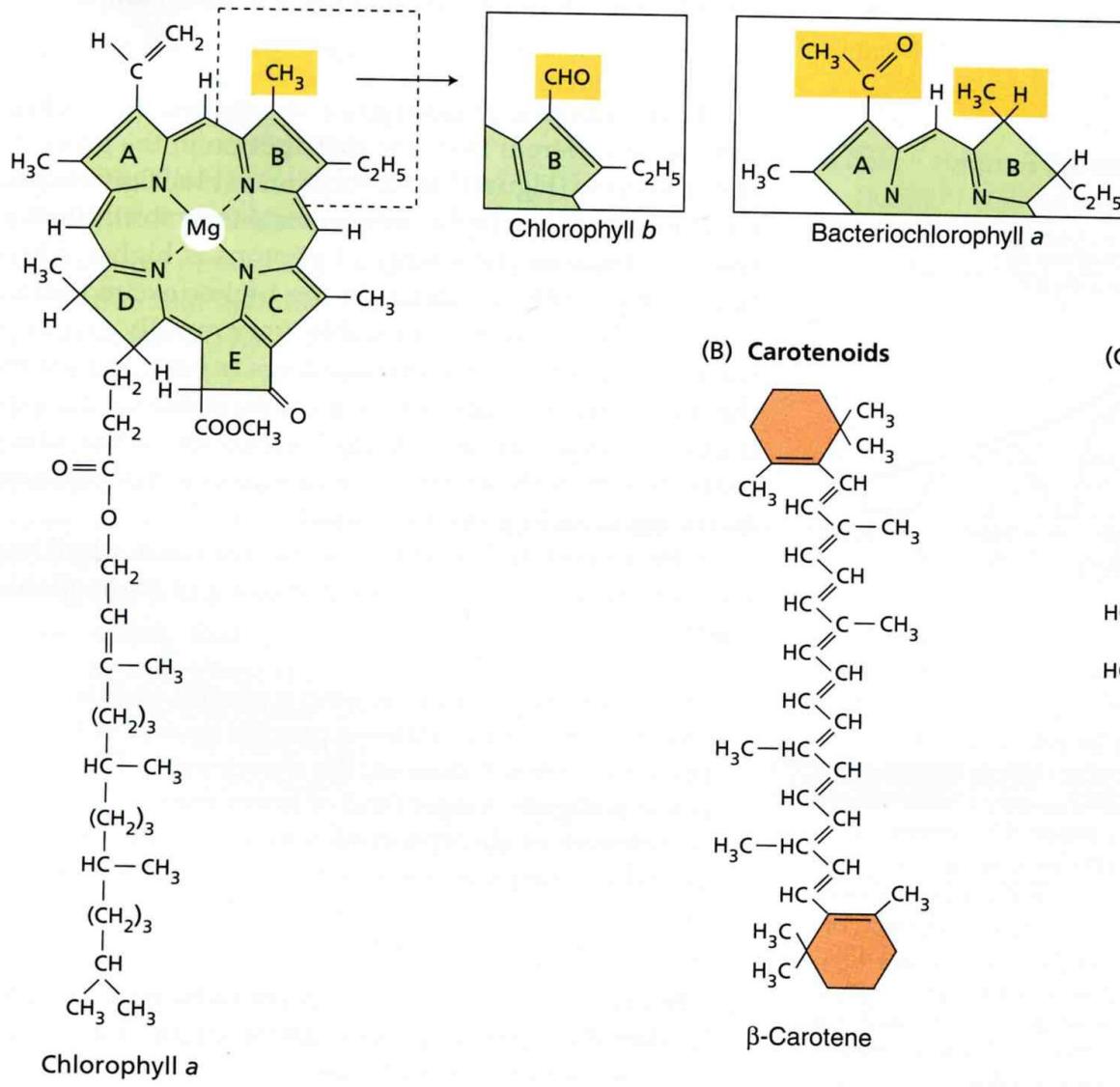


Figure 10.11

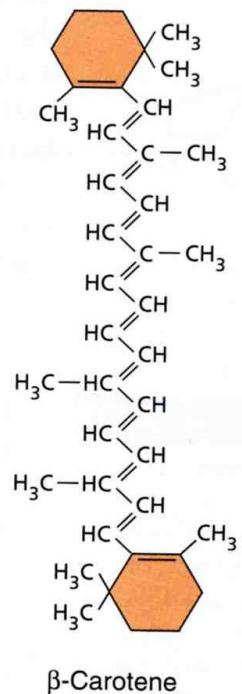


- Other accessory pigments
 - Absorb different wavelengths of light and pass the energy to **chlorophyll a**

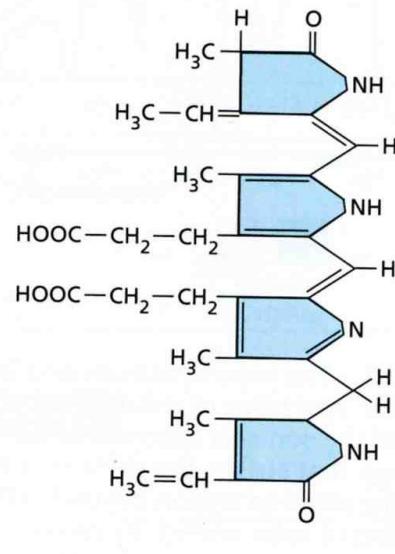
(A) Chlorophylls



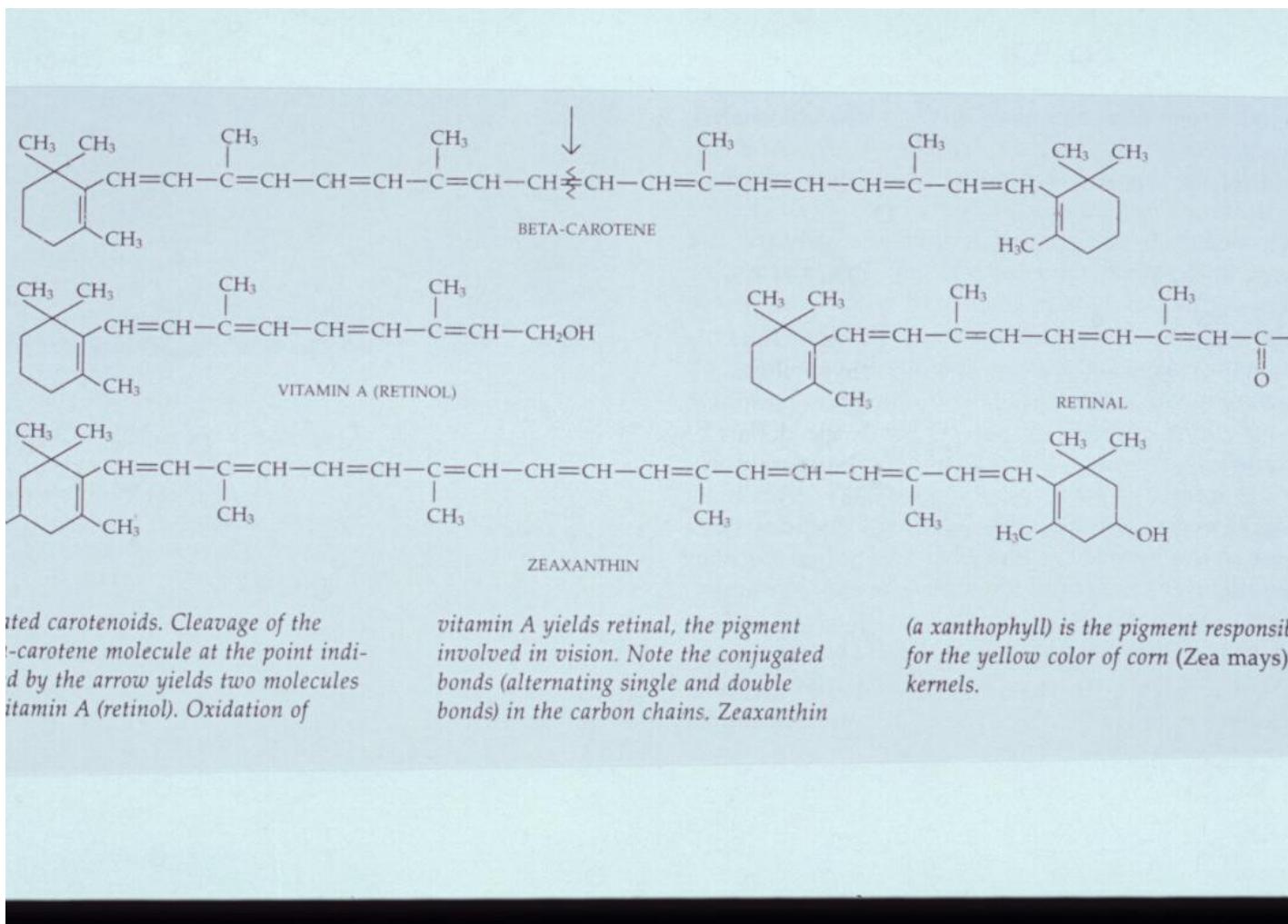
(B) Carotenoids

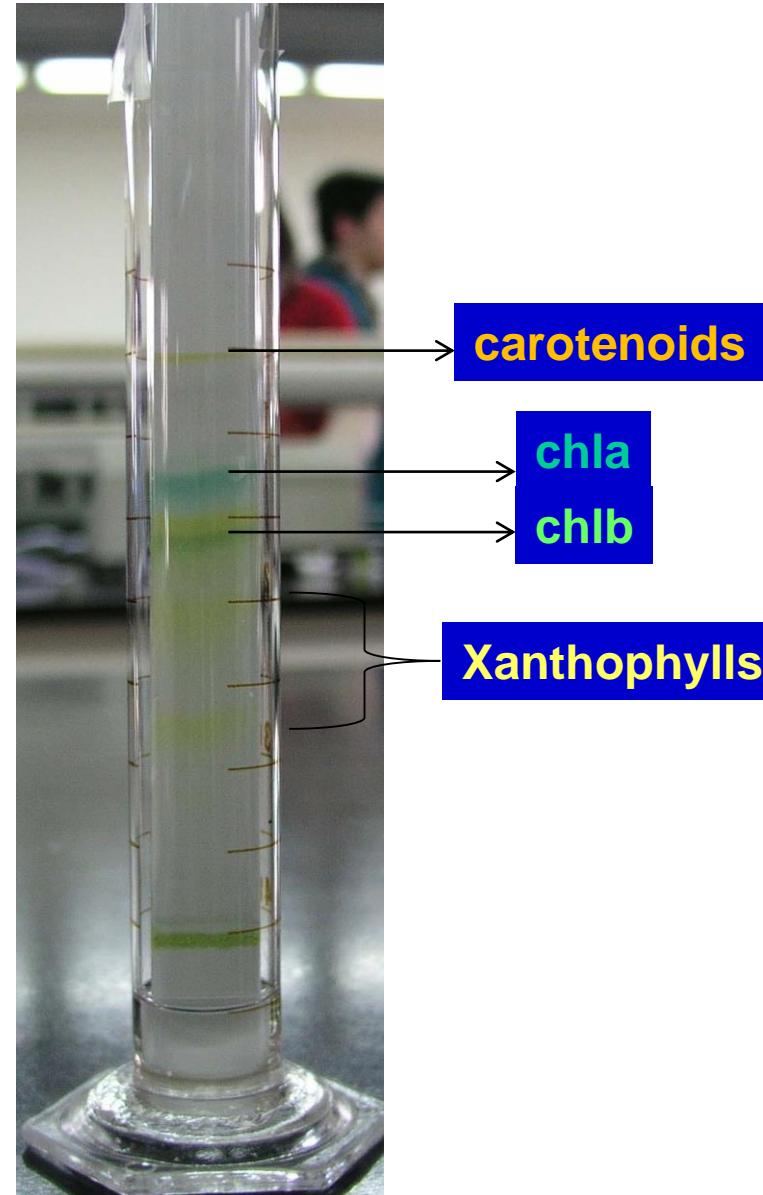


(C) Bilin pigments



類胡蘿蔔素





THE LIGHT REACTIONS: CONVERTING SOLAR ENERGY TO CHEMICAL ENERGY

- **Visible radiation drives the light reactions**
 - Certain wavelengths of visible light, absorbed by pigments
 - Drive the light reactions of photosynthesis

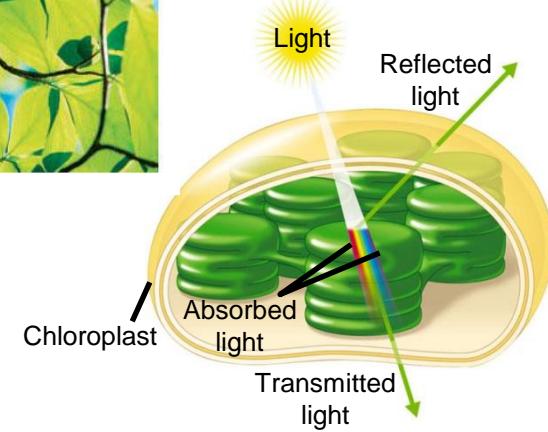
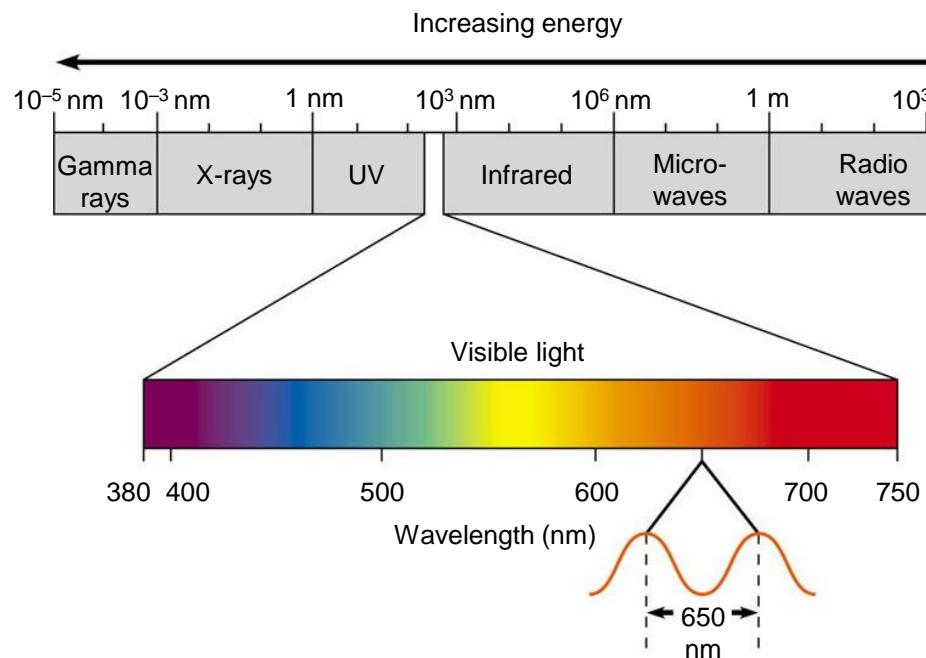


Figure 7.6A, B

7.7 Photosystems capture solar energy

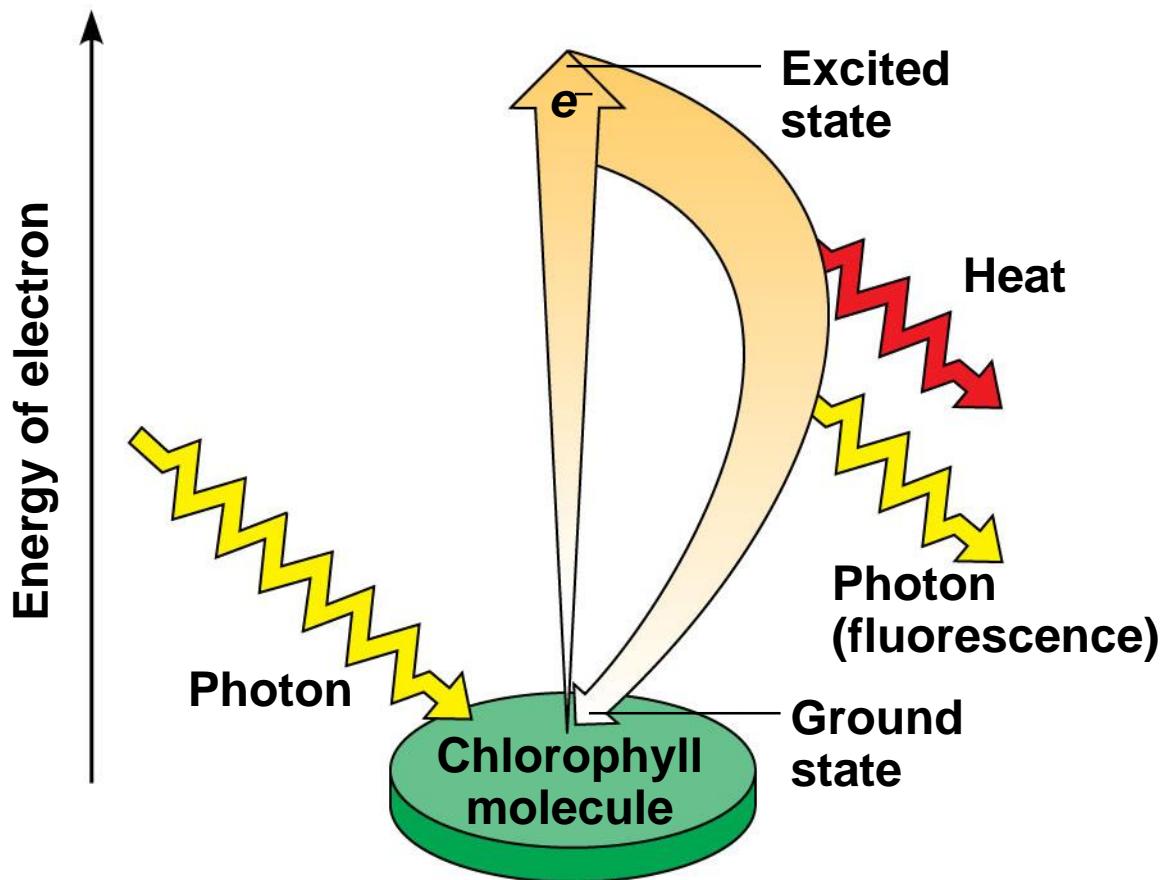
- Pigments in chloroplasts absorb photons (capturing solar power), which
 - increases the potential energy of the pigments' electrons and
 - sends the electrons into an unstable state.

- Generally, when isolated pigment molecules absorb light, their excited electrons drop back down to the ground state and release their excess energy as heat.

Excitation of Chlorophyll by Light

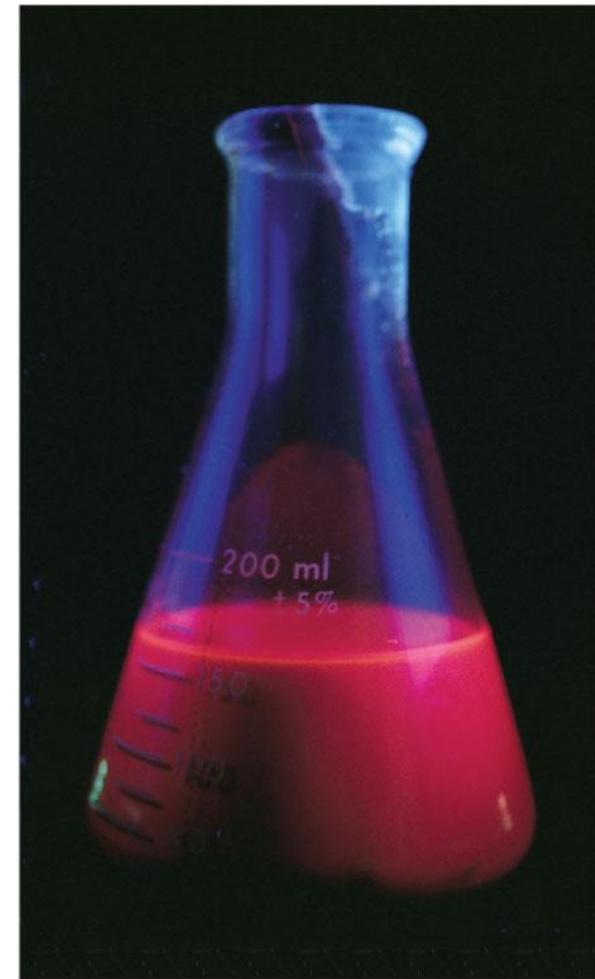
- When a pigment absorbs light, it goes from a ground state to an excited state, which is unstable
- When excited electrons fall back to the ground state, photons are given off, an afterglow called **fluorescence** 螢光
- If illuminated, **an isolated solution of chlorophyll** will fluoresce, **giving off light and heat**

Figure 10.12



(a) Excitation of isolated chlorophyll molecule

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(b) Fluorescence

Excitation of Chlorophyll by Light

- When a pigment absorbs light
 - It goes from a **ground state** 基態 to an **excited state** 激發態, which is unstable

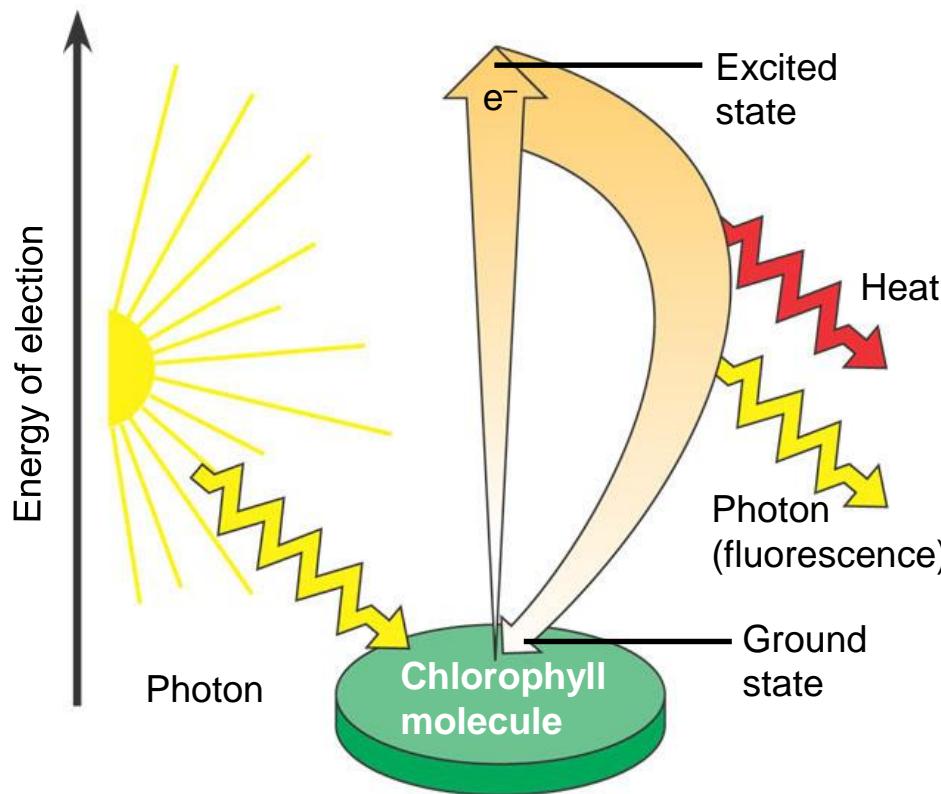


Figure 10.11 A

- If an isolated solution of chlorophyll is illuminated
 - It will **fluoresce**螢光, giving off **light and heat**

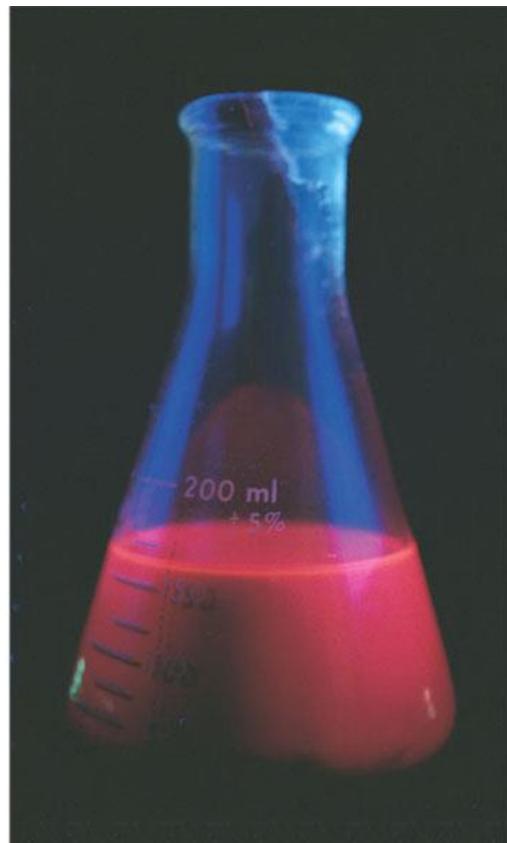


Figure 10.11 B

- Other accessory pigments
 - Absorb different wavelengths of light and pass the energy to **chlorophyll a**

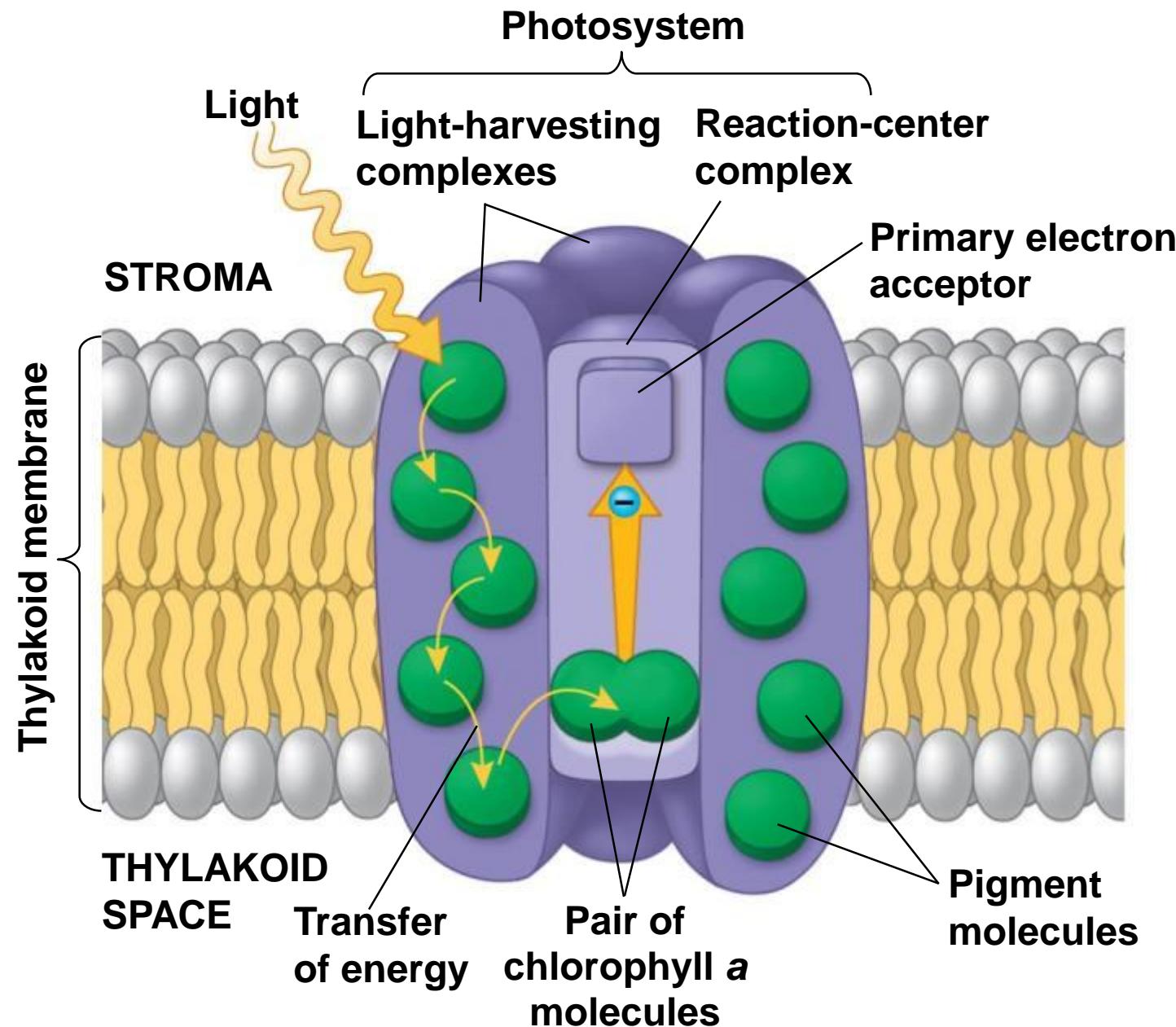
Photosystems capture solar energy

- Within a thylakoid membrane, chlorophyll and other pigment molecules
 - absorb photons and
 - transfer the energy to other pigment molecules.
- In the thylakoid membrane, chlorophyll molecules are organized along with other pigments and proteins into **photosystems**.

Photosystems capture solar energy

- A **photosystem** consists of a number of **light-harvesting complexes** surrounding a **reaction-center complex**.
- A light-harvesting complex contains various pigment molecules bound to proteins.
- Collectively, the light-harvesting complexes function as a light-gathering antenna.

Figure 7.7b



- In the thylakoid membrane, chlorophyll is organized along with proteins and smaller organic molecules into **photosystems**.
- A photosystem acts like a light-gathering “antenna complex” consisting of a few hundred chlorophyll *a*, chlorophyll *b*, and carotenoid molecules.

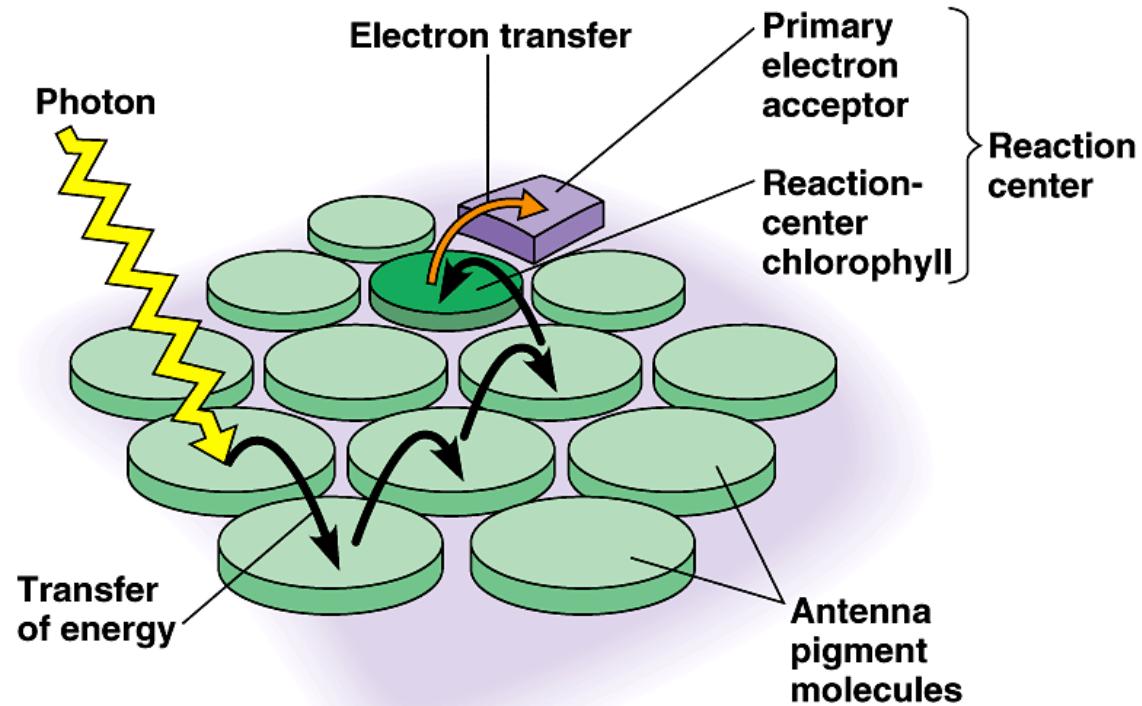


Fig. 10.11

Photosystem

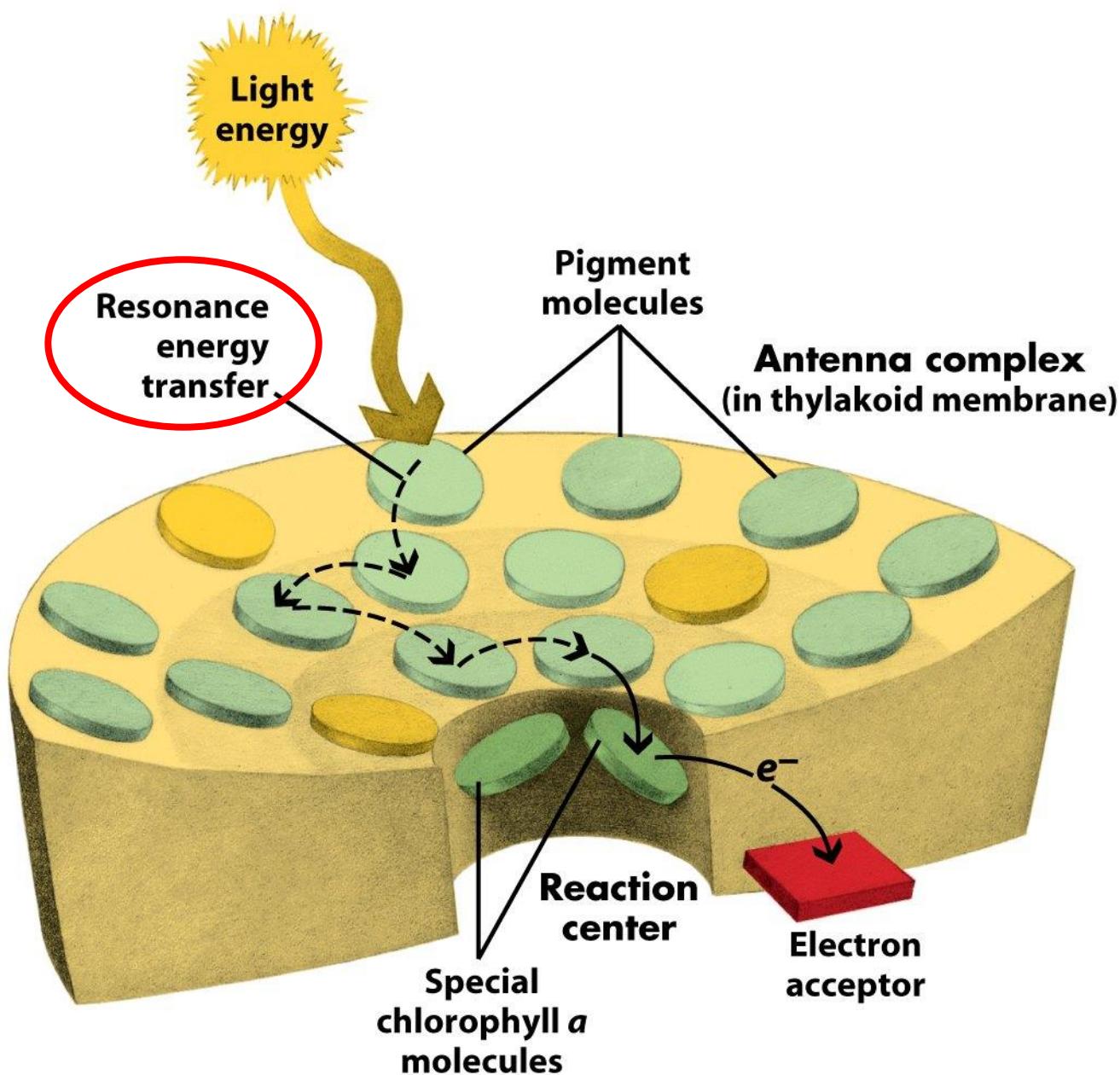


Figure 7-10
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- When a reaction-center chlorophyll molecule absorbs energy
 - One of its electrons gets bumped up to a primary electron acceptor

- The thylakoid membrane
 - Is populated by two types of **photosystems, I and II**

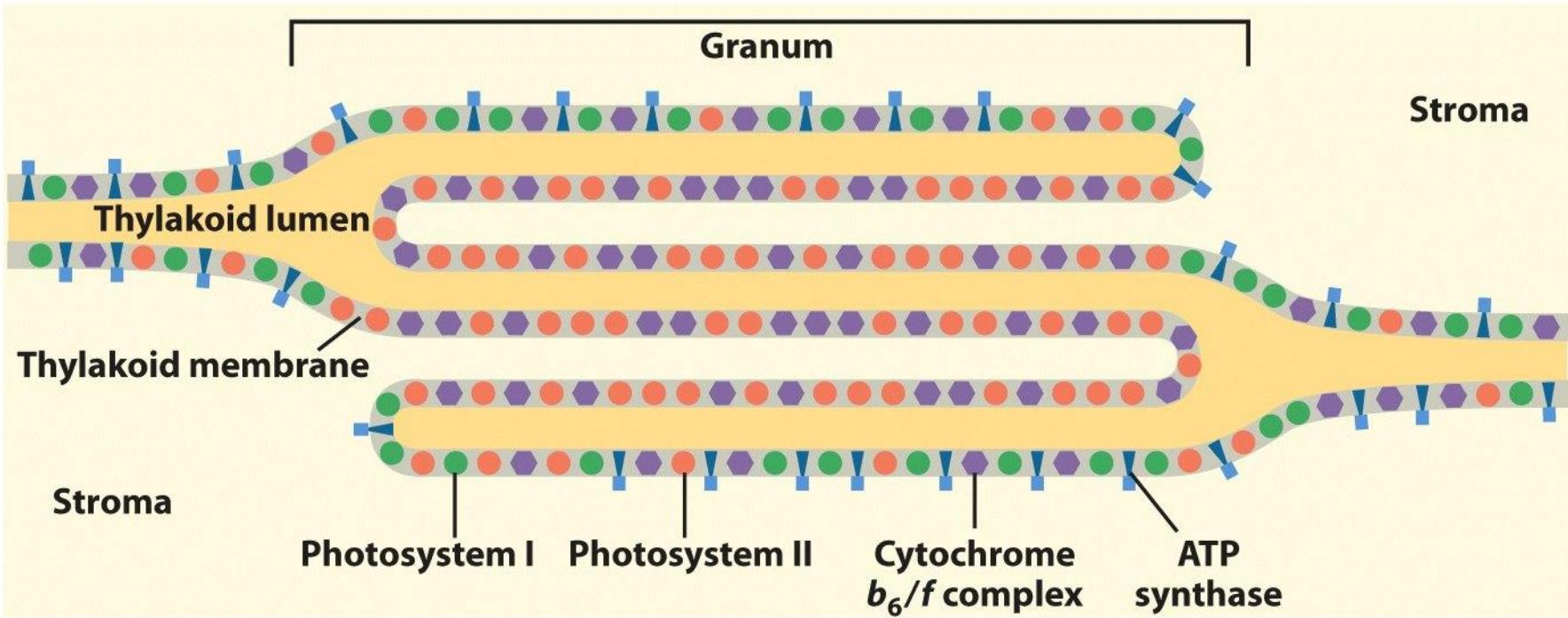


Figure 7-13
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- In the light reactions, electron transport chains generate **ATP** and **NADPH**
 - Two connected photosystems absorb photons of light
 - And transfer the energy to chlorophyll **P680** and **P700**

Photosystems capture solar energy

- The light energy is passed from molecule to molecule within the photosystem.
 - Finally it reaches the reaction center, where a primary electron acceptor accepts these electrons and consequently becomes reduced.
 - The solar-powered transfer of an electron from the reaction-center chlorophyll a pair to the primary electron acceptor is the first step in the transformation of light energy to chemical energy in the light reactions.

Photosystems capture solar energy

- Two types of photosystems (photosystem I and photosystem II) cooperate in the light reactions.
- Each photosystem has a characteristic reaction-center complex, with a special pair of chlorophyll a molecules associated with a particular primary electron acceptor.

7.8 Two photosystems connected by an electron transport chain generate ATP and NADPH

- In the light reactions, light energy is transformed into the chemical energy of ATP and NADPH.
- To accomplish this, electrons are
 - removed from water,
 - passed from photosystem II to photosystem I, and
 - accepted by NADP^+ , reducing it to NADPH.
- Between the two photosystems, the electrons
 - move down an electron transport chain and
 - provide energy for the synthesis of ATP.

Two photosystems connected by an electron transport chain generate ATP and NADPH

- A simple mechanical analogy helps unpack this rather complicated system.
- This construction analogy shows how the coupling of two photosystems and an electron transport chain can transform the energy of light to the chemical energy of ATP and NADPH.

Linear Electron Flow

- Linear electron flow
 - Is the primary pathway of energy transformation in the light reactions

產生 $\frac{1}{2} \text{O}_2$, 6ATP, 6NADPH + 6H⁺

Photolysis 光解作用

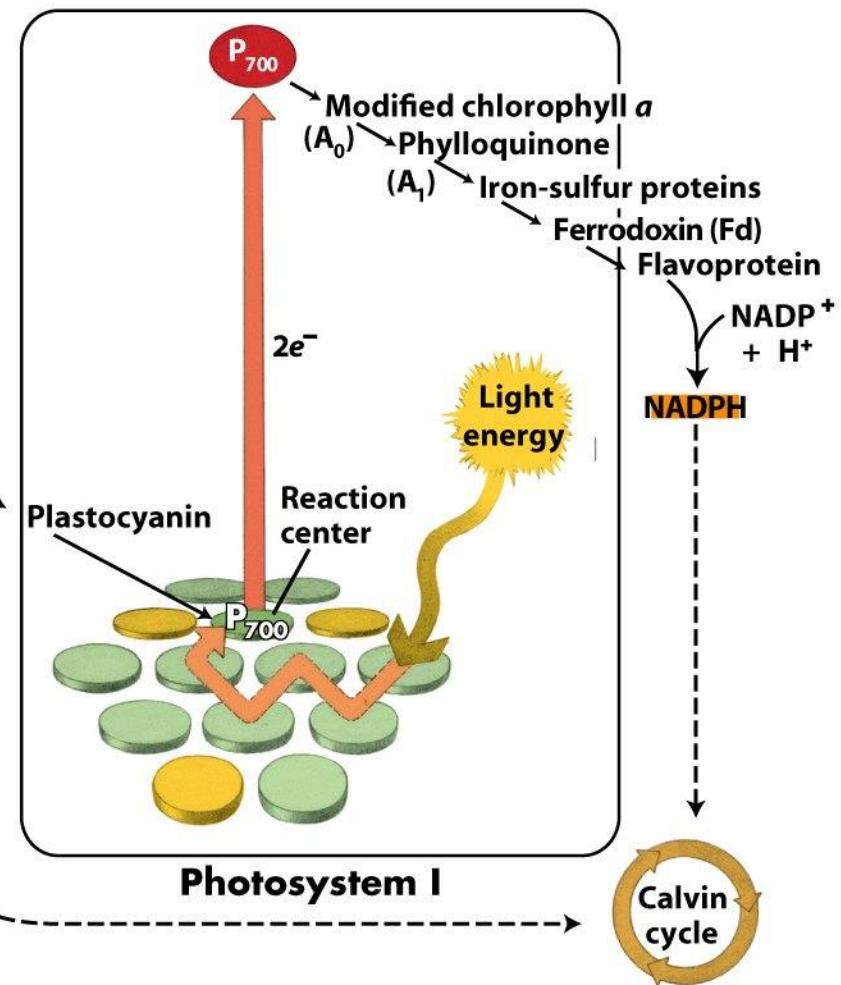
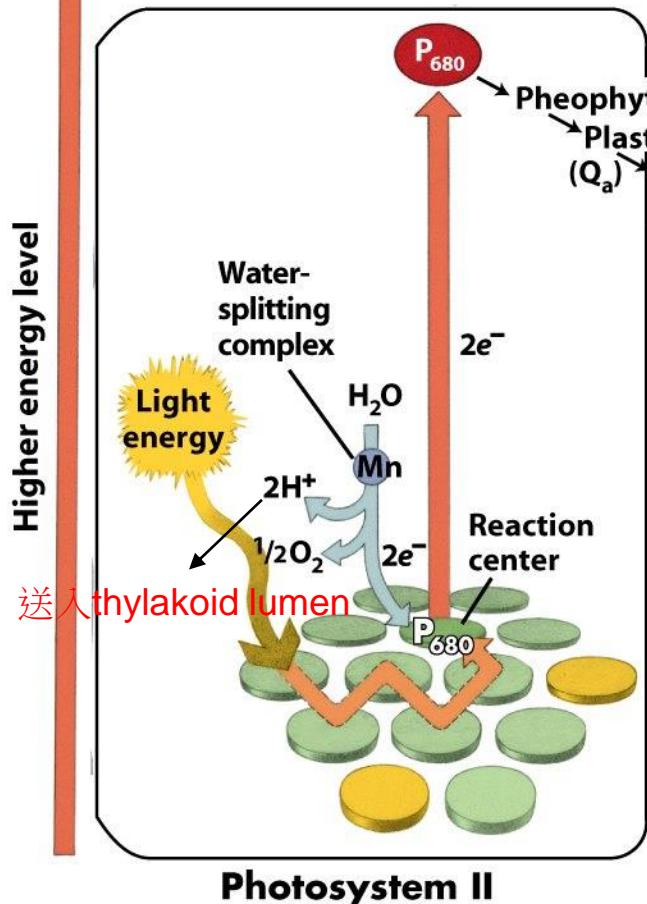
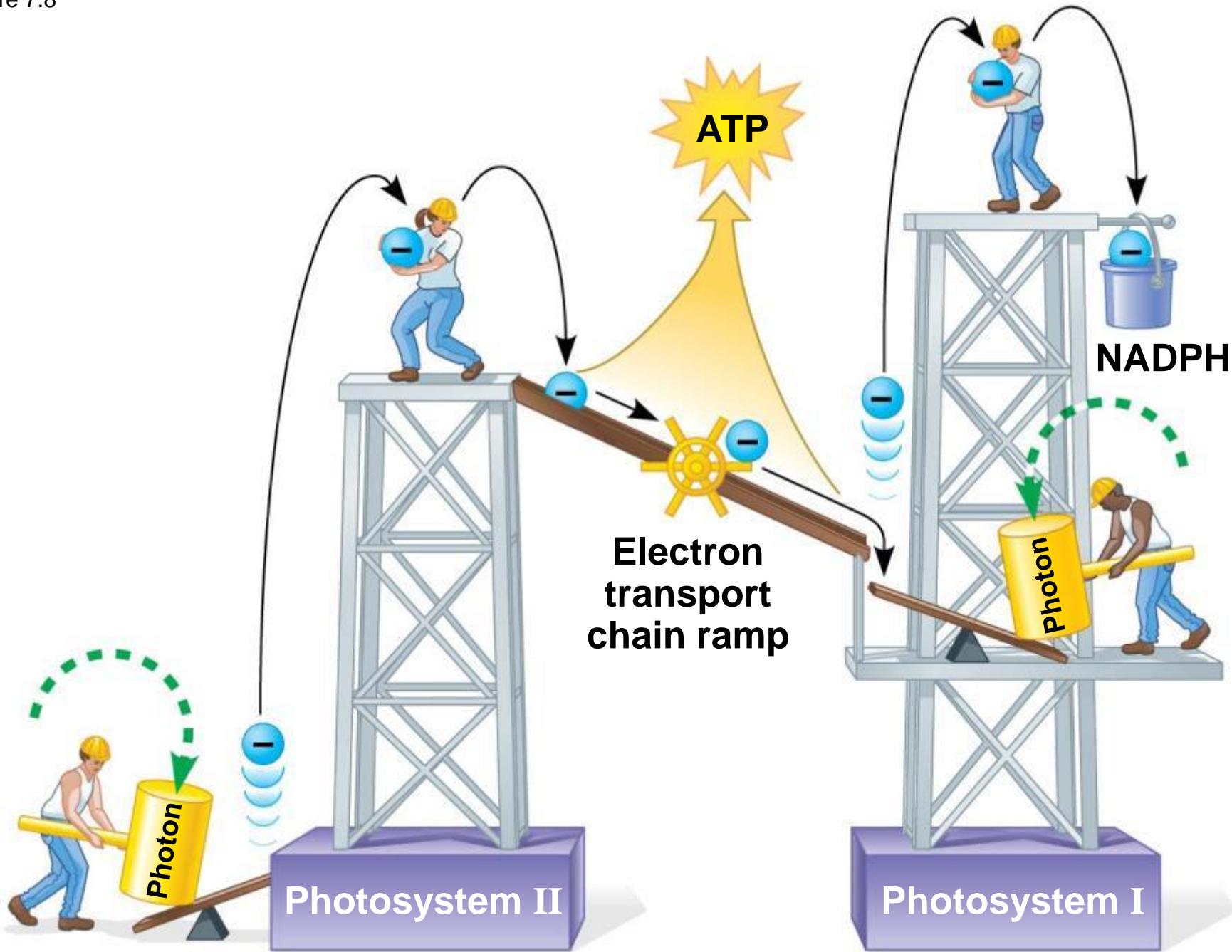


Figure 7-11
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Z protein: Mn-containing protein

- Photosystem II regains electrons by splitting water
 - Releasing O₂

Figure 7.8



Cyclic Electron Flow

- Under certain conditions
 - Photoexcited electrons take an alternative path

- In cyclic electron flow
 - Only photosystem I is used
 - Only ATP is produced

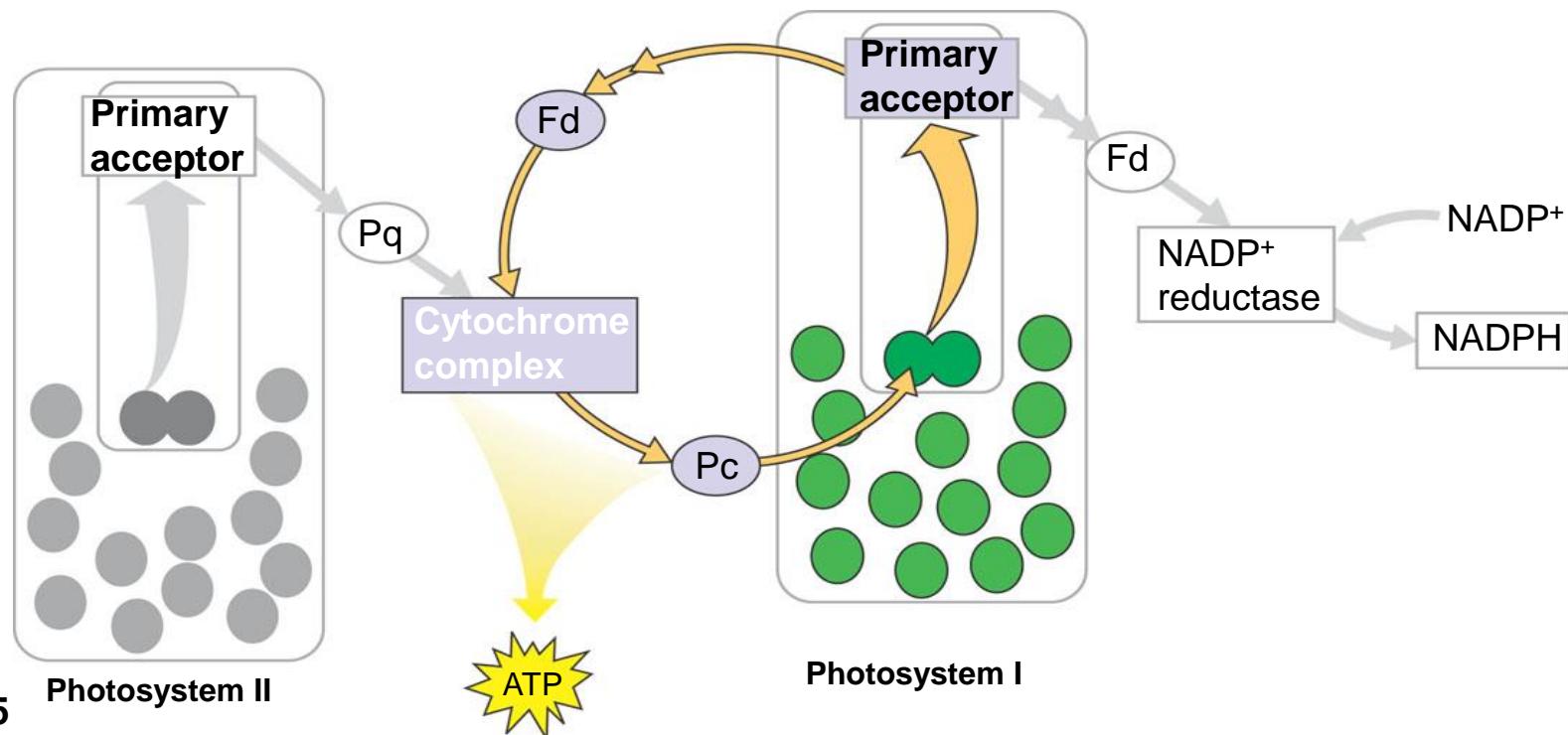


Figure 10.15

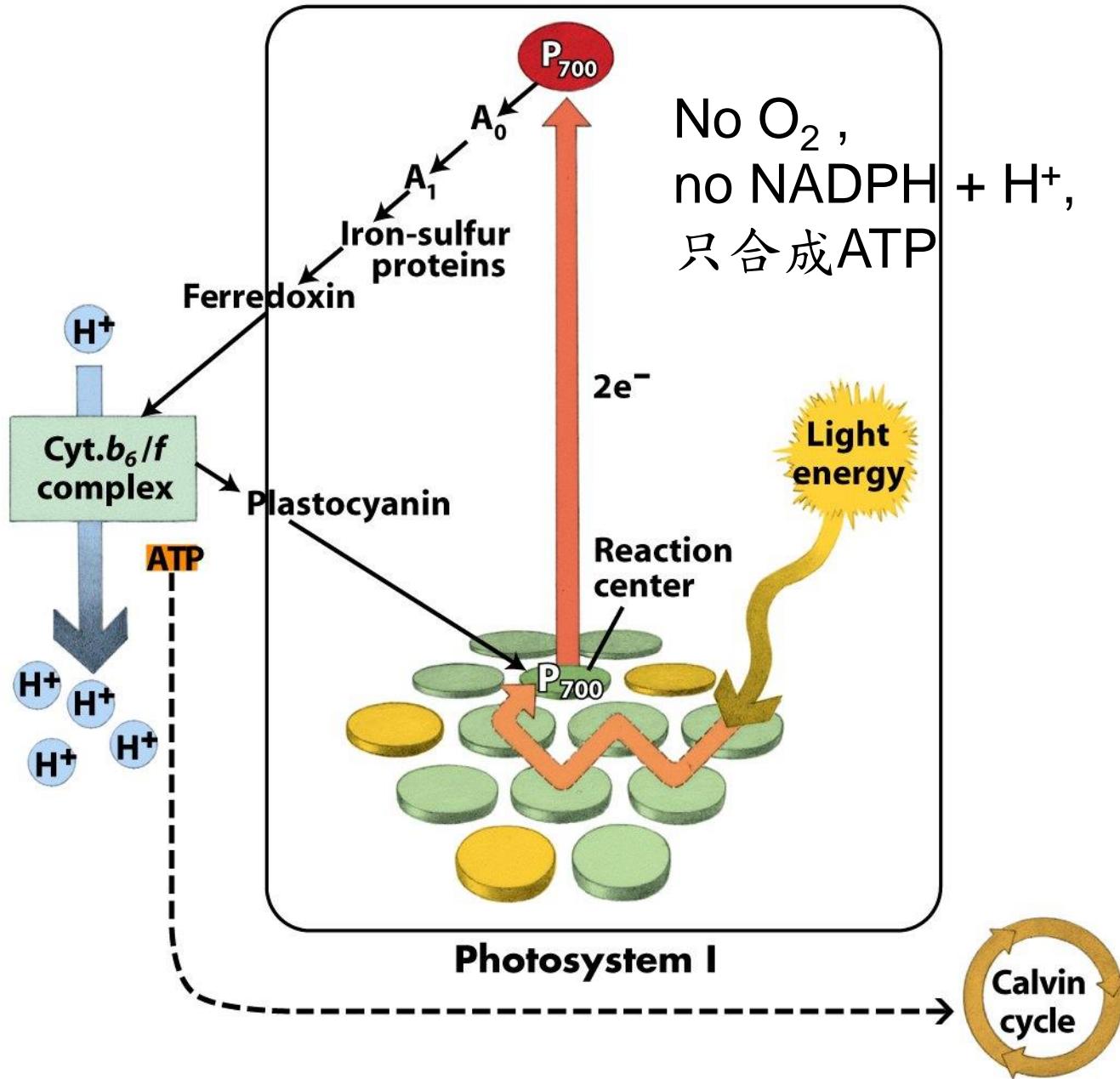


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Cyclic Electron Flow

- Most primitive photosynthetic mechanism
- Bacteria, eukaryotes

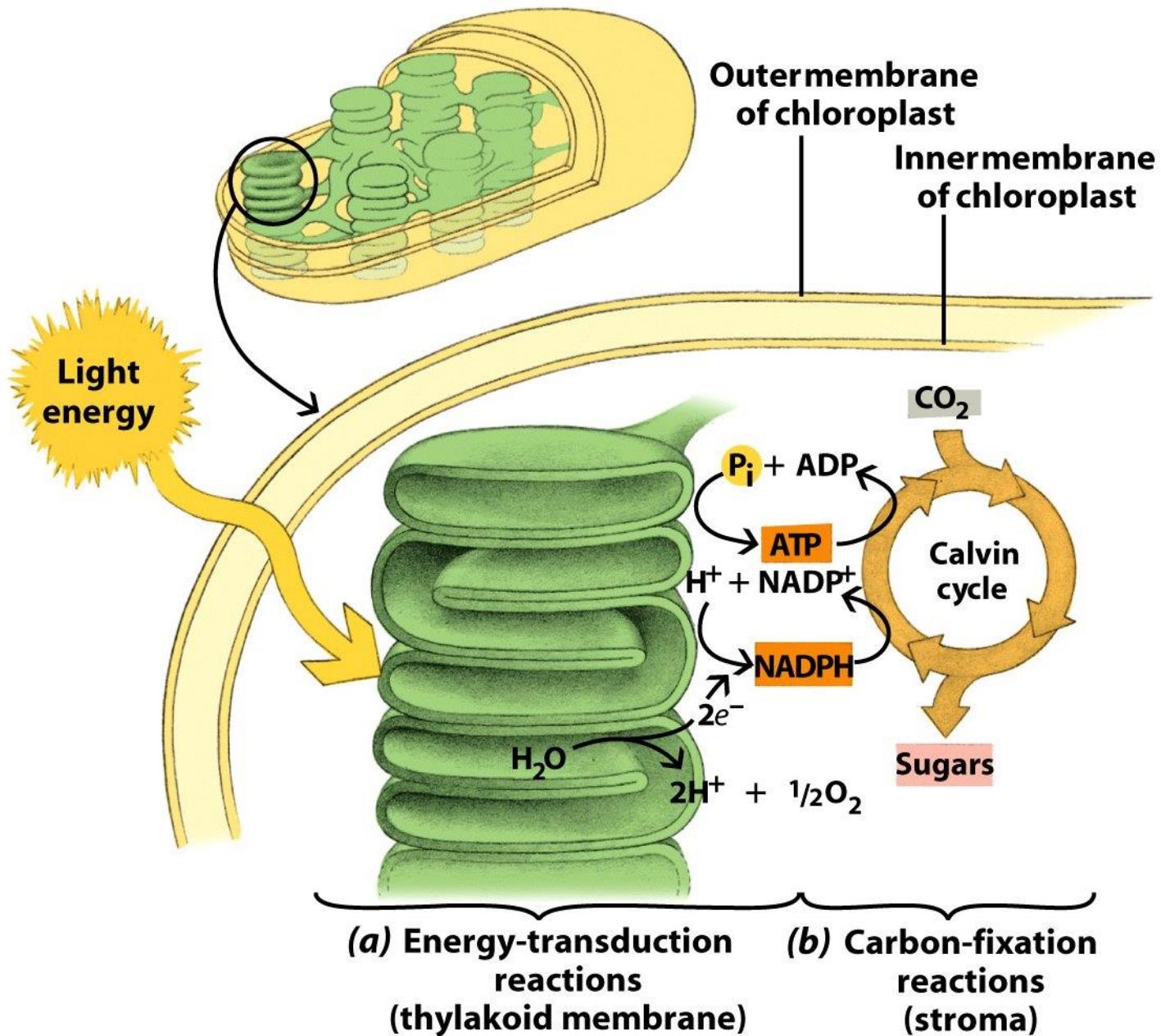
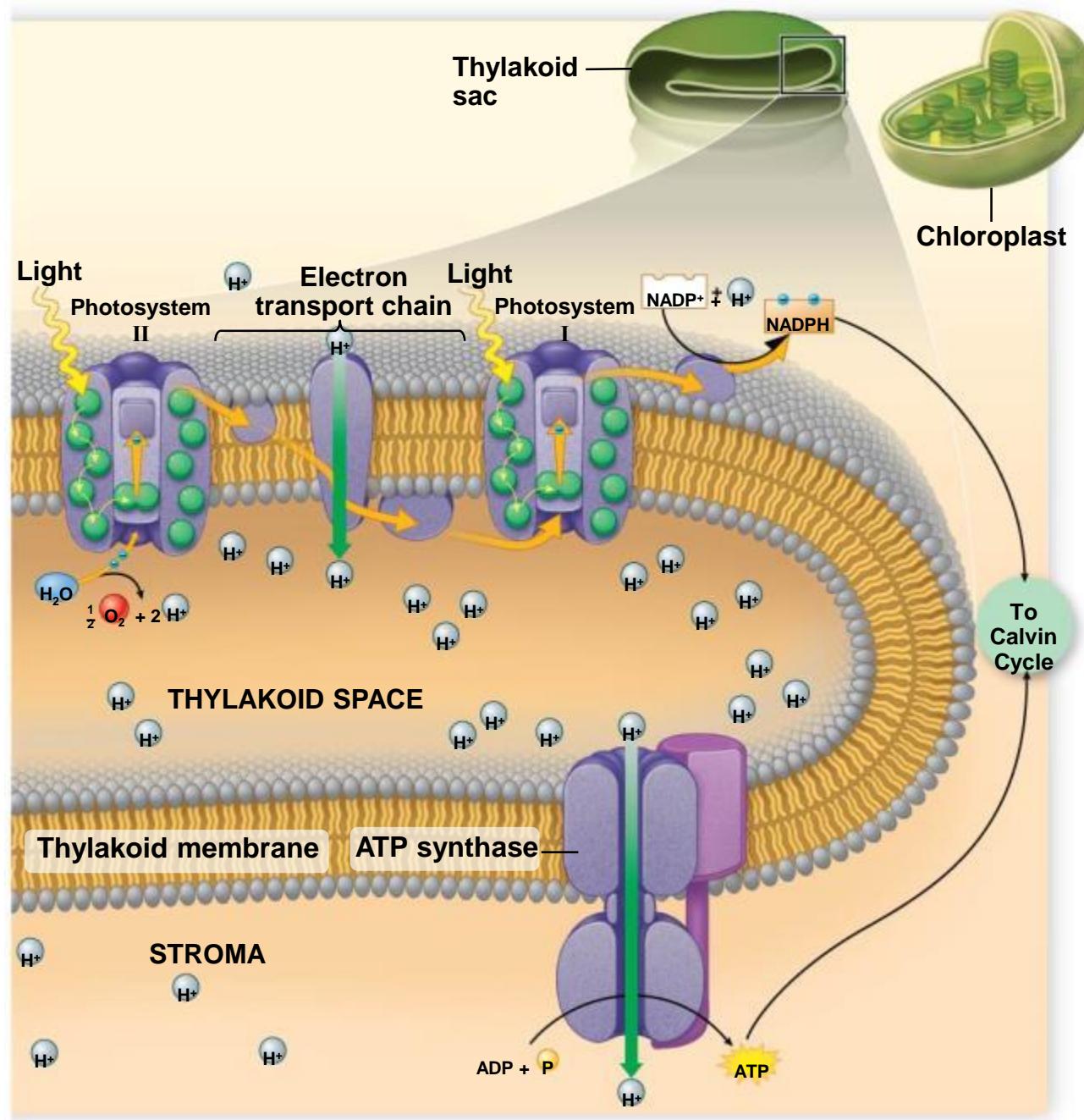


Figure 7-9
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- **Chemiosmosis** powers ATP synthesis in the light reactions
 - The electron transport chain
 - Pumps H⁺ into the thylakoid space

Figure 7.9-0



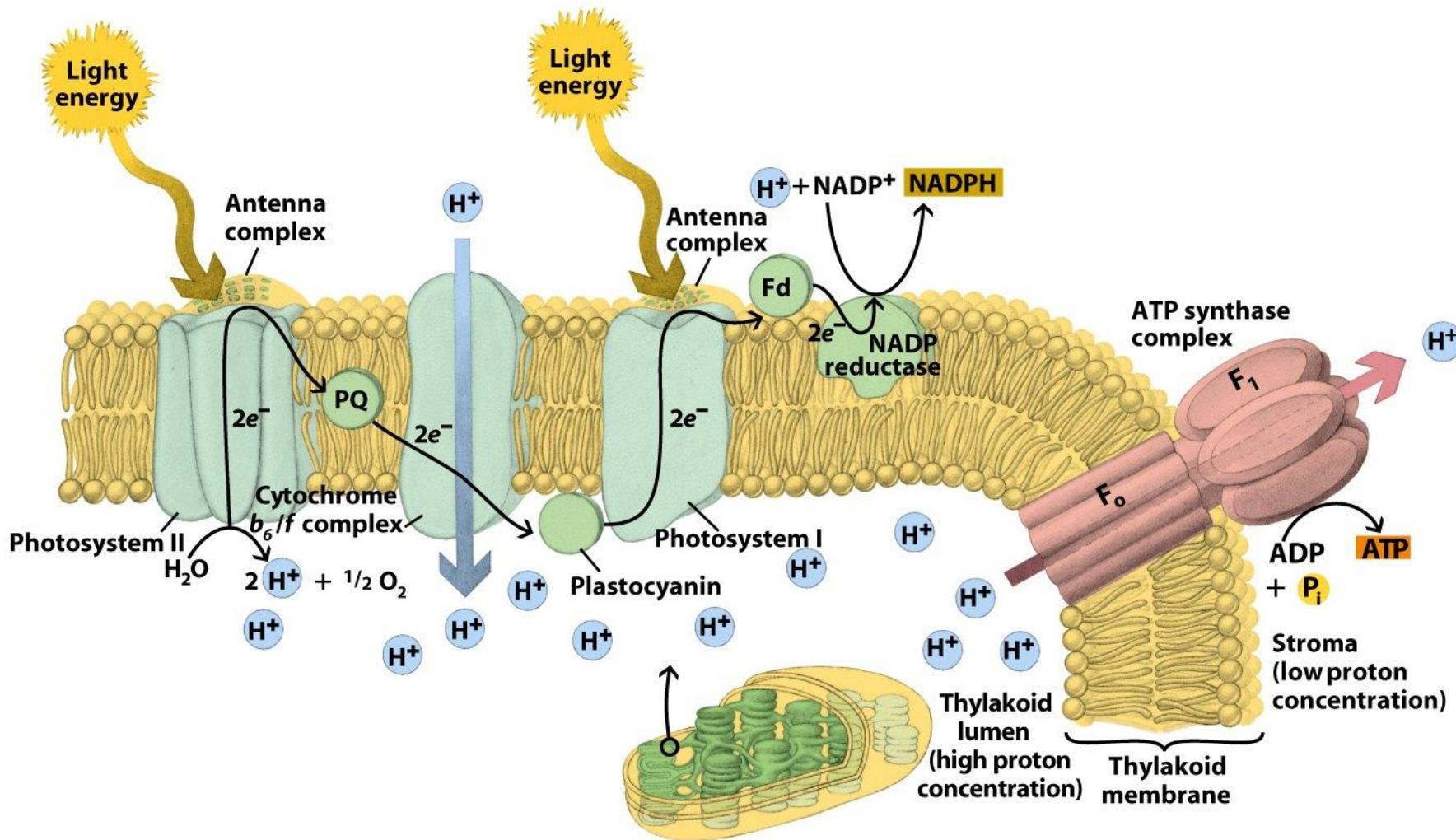


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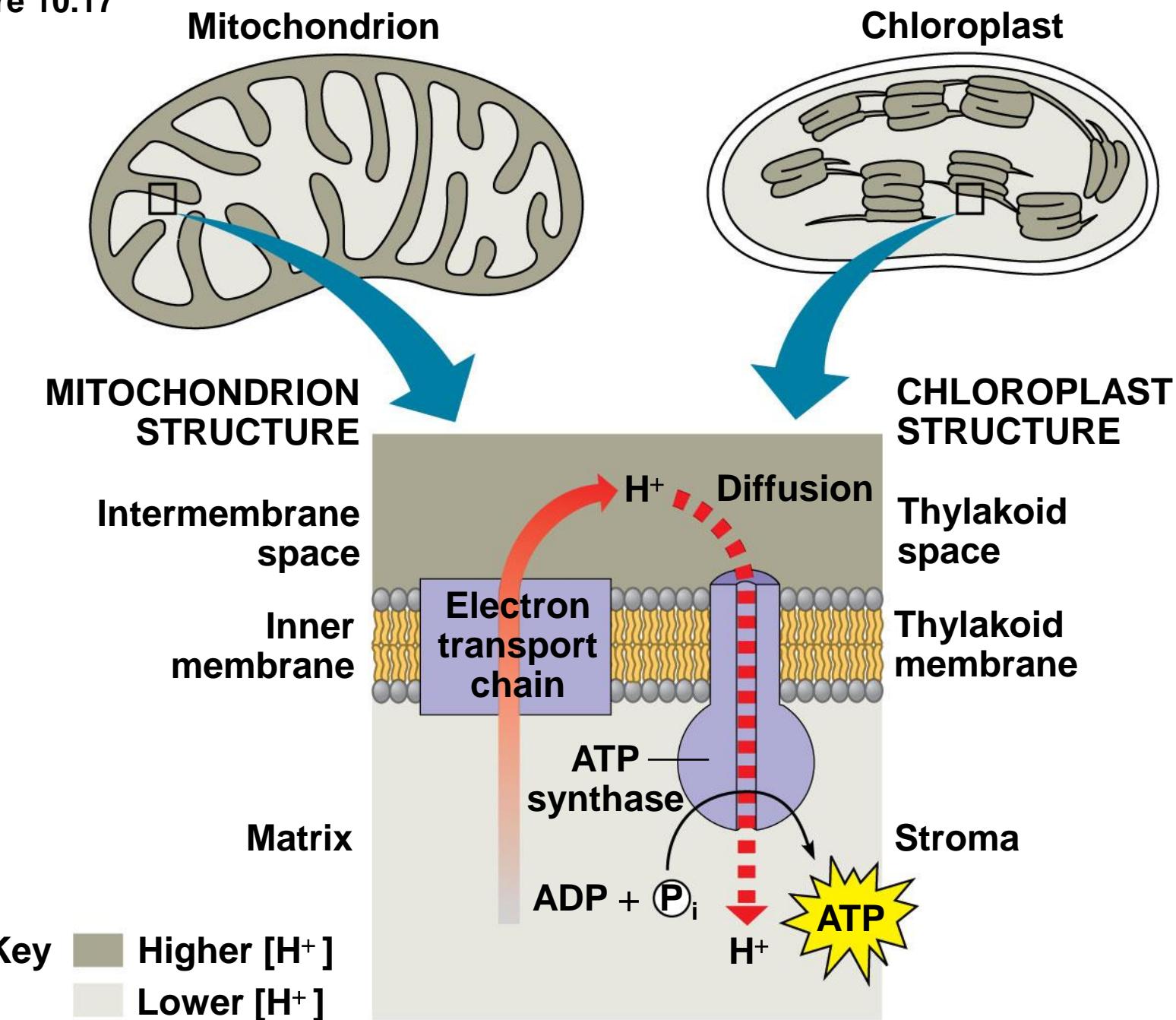
- pH: $-\log [H^+]$
- H^+ conc. = 10^{-5} : pH 5
- H^+ conc. = 10^{-8} : pH 8
- 相差 $1000 \times$
- pH gradient

- In both organelles
 - Redox reactions of electron transport chains generate a H⁺ gradient across a membrane
- ATP synthase
 - Uses this proton-motive force to make ATP

A Comparison of Chemiosmosis in Chloroplasts and Mitochondria

- Chloroplasts and mitochondria
 - Generate ATP by the same basic mechanism: chemiosmosis
 - But use different sources of energy to accomplish this

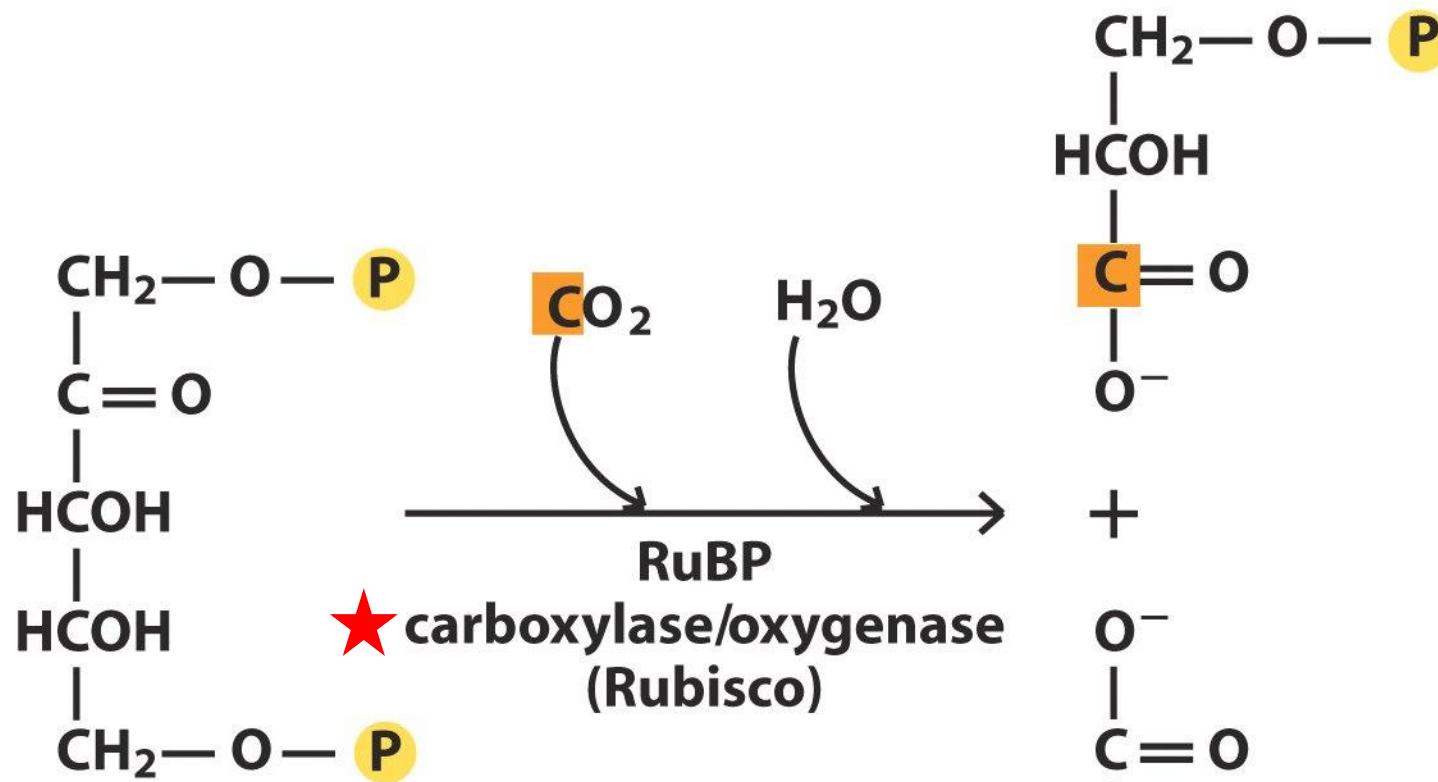
Figure 10.17



The Calvin Cycle: Reducing CO₂ to Sugar

The biochemical reactions of photosynthesis

- 1950s **Melvin Calvin** and his colleagues
- 1961 Nobel Prize
- **C¹⁴ radioactive carbon**
- 7 second exposure – 3*-PGA
 - (3-phosphoglyceric acid)
- Ribulose-1,5-bisphosphate (RuBP) - 5C sugar
- RuBP + CO₂ → unstable 6C → 2 3-PGA



Ribulose 1,5-bisphosphate (RuBP)

2 Molecules of
3-phosphoglycerate (PGA)

- A large enzyme MW 490,000
- 8 large subunit – coded in the chloroplast
- 8 small subunit – coded in the nucleus
- The assembly of the large and small subunits into rubisco is controlled by light.
- Rubisco occurs in all autotrophs except a few species of bacteria and is the most important and abundant protein on earth. It makes up about 20%~25% of the soluble protein in leaves.

THE CALVIN CYCLE: CONVERTING CO₂ TO SUGARS

- ATP and NADPH power sugar synthesis in the **Calvin cycle**
 - The Calvin cycle
 - Occurs in the chloroplast's **stroma**
 - Consists of carbon fixation, reduction, release of G3P, and regeneration of RuBP

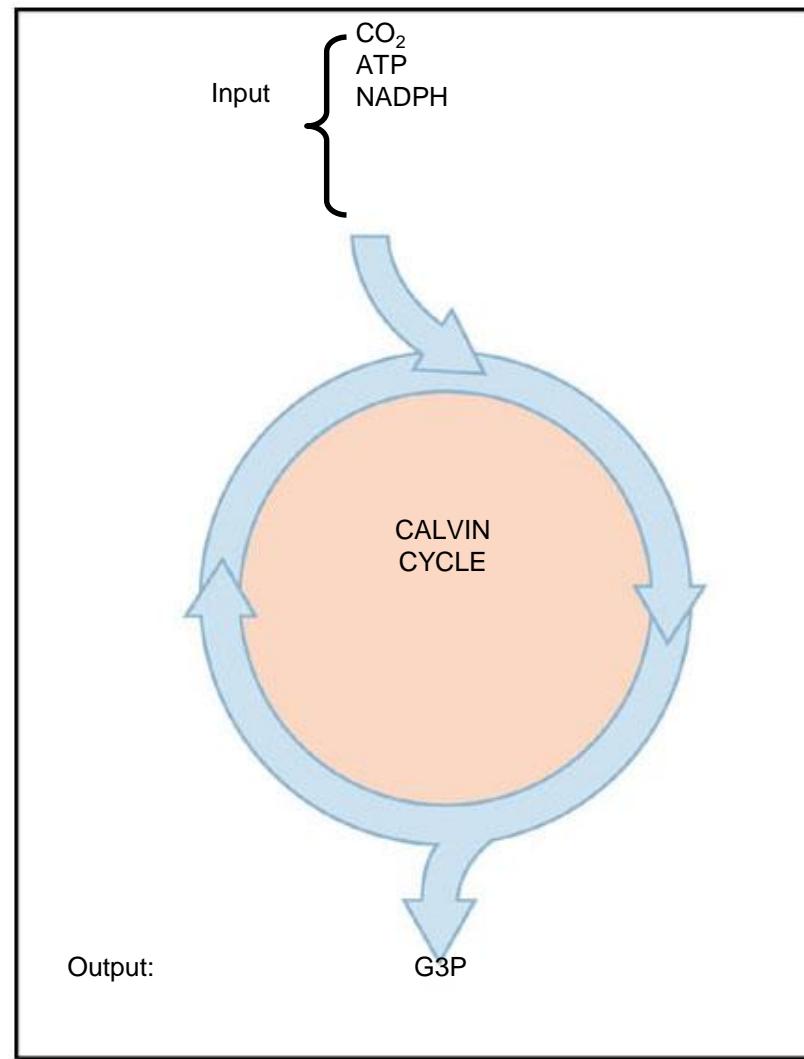
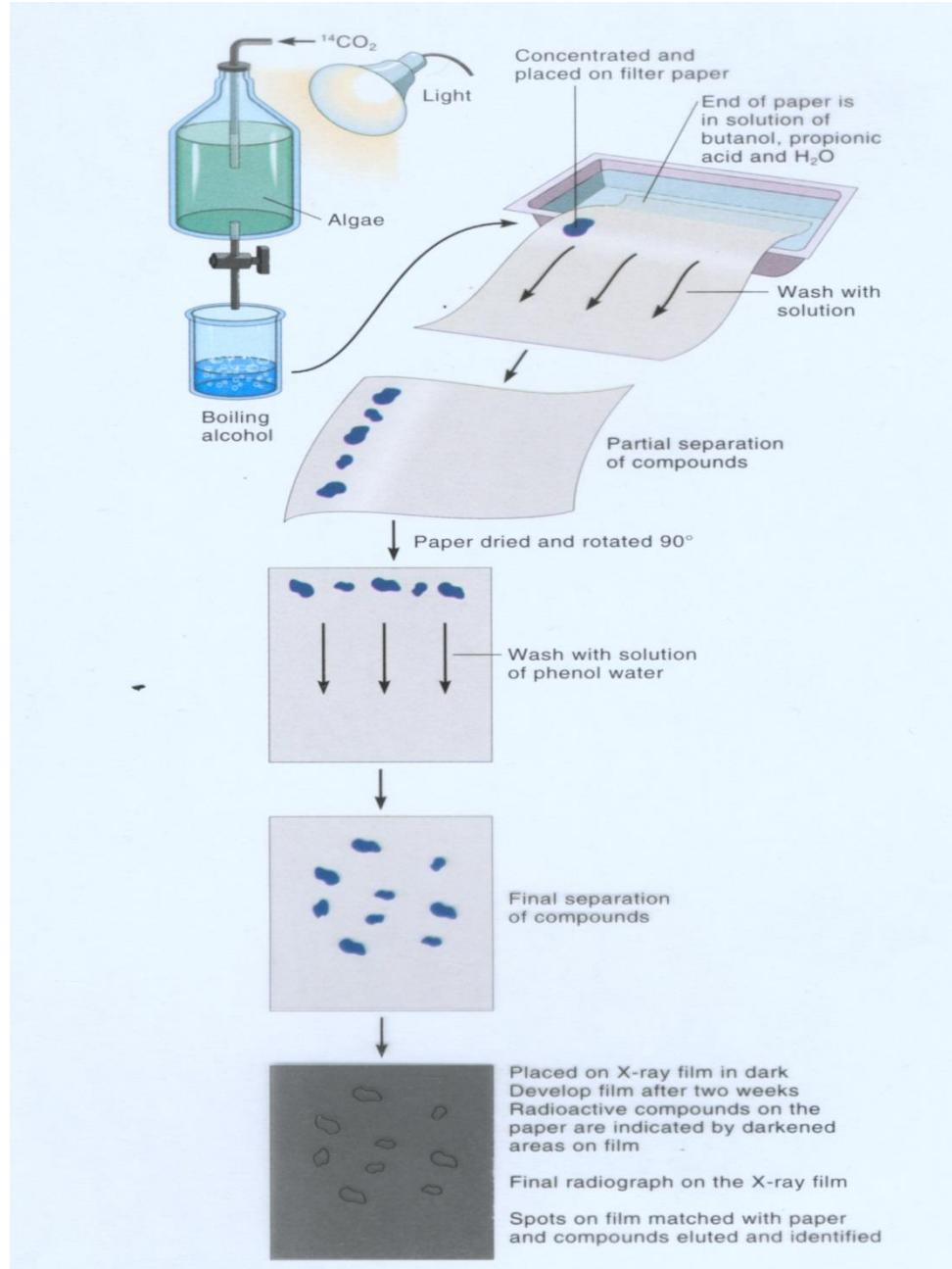


Figure 7.10A

- 利用 C¹⁴
- Chromatography 色層分析
- Autoradiography 自動顯影術



- The Calvin cycle has three phases
 - Carbon fixation
 - Reduction
 - Regeneration of the CO₂ acceptor

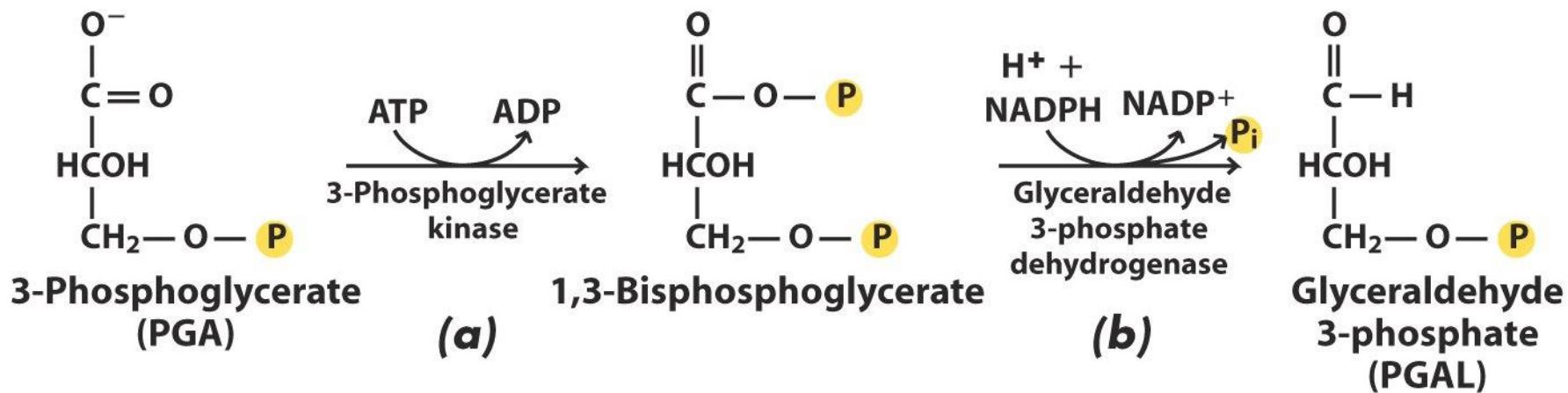


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Figure 7.10-2

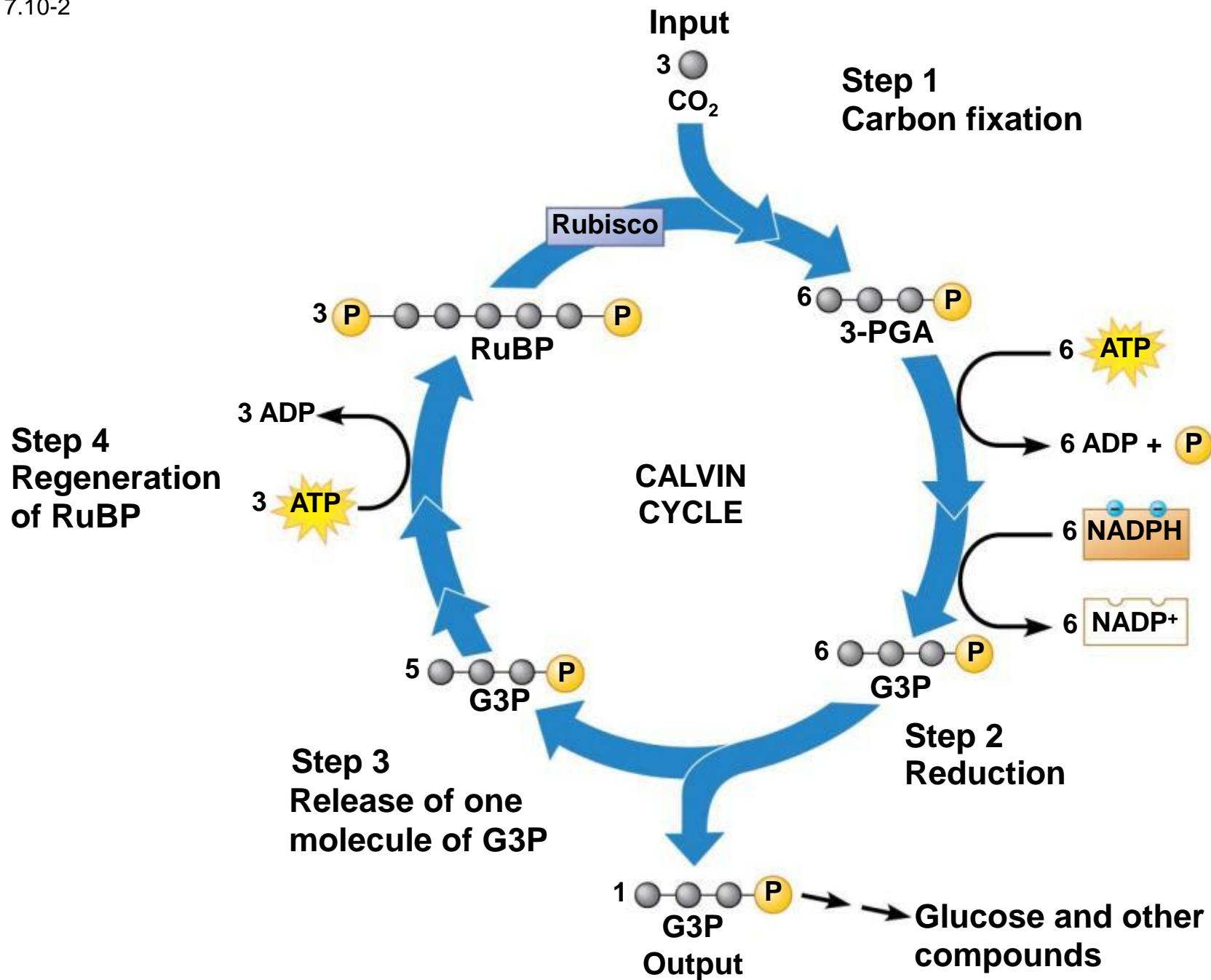
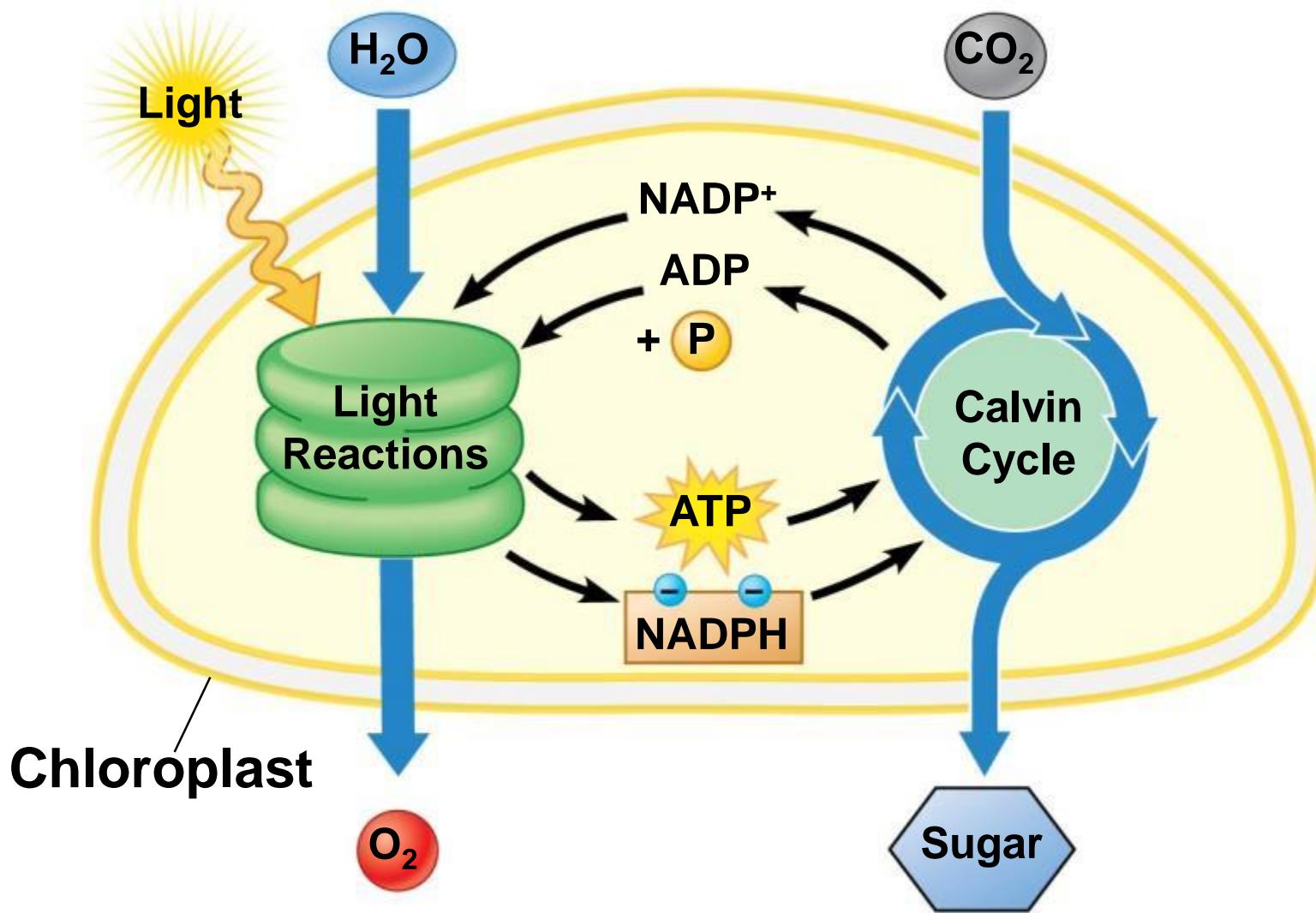


Figure 7.10-1

A review of photosynthesis



- Organic compounds produced by photosynthesis
 - Provide the energy and **building material** for ecosystems

Photorespiration: An Evolutionary Relic?

- In **photorespiration** 光呼吸作用
 - O₂ substitutes for CO₂ in the active site of the enzyme rubisco
 - The photosynthetic rate is reduced

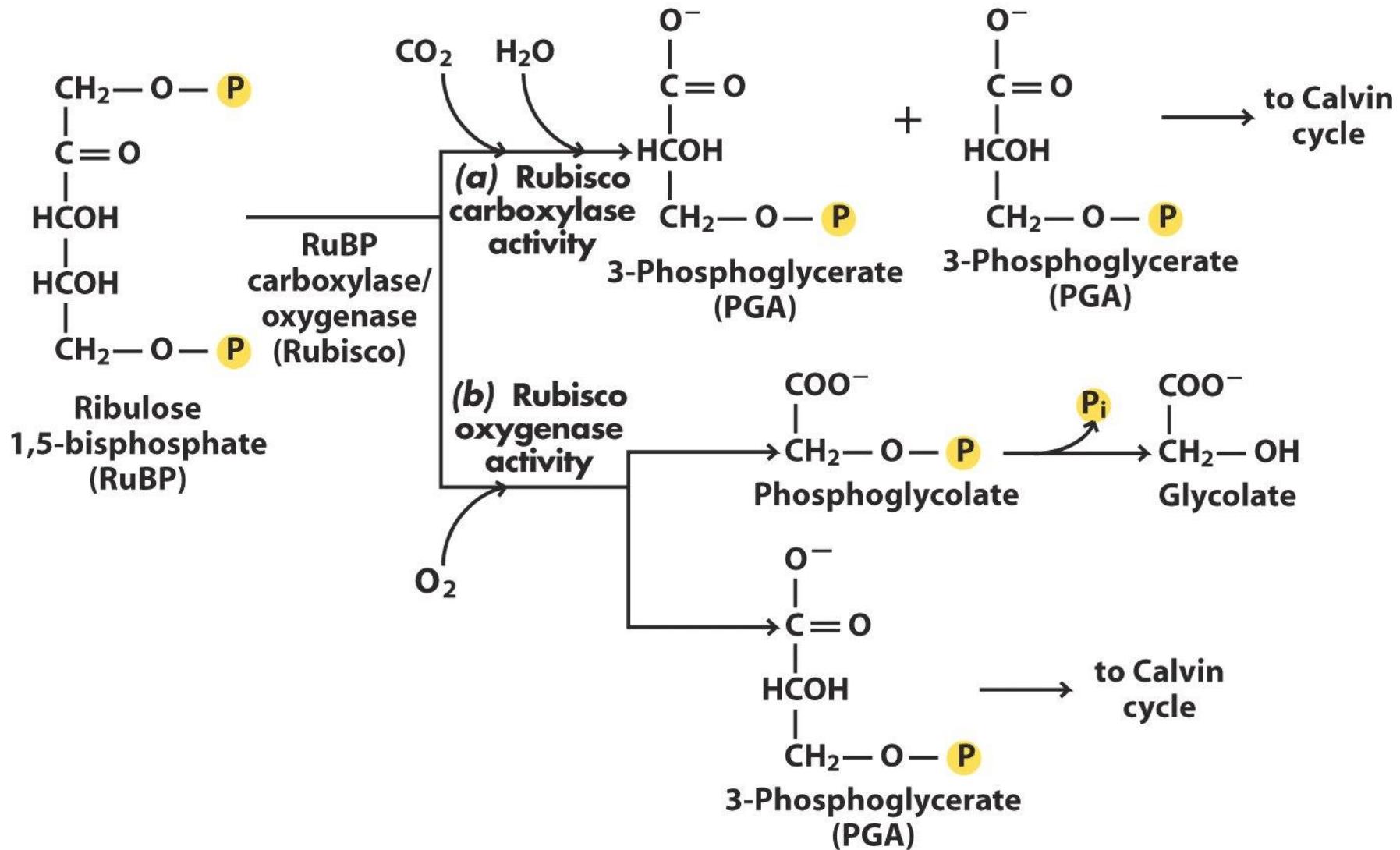


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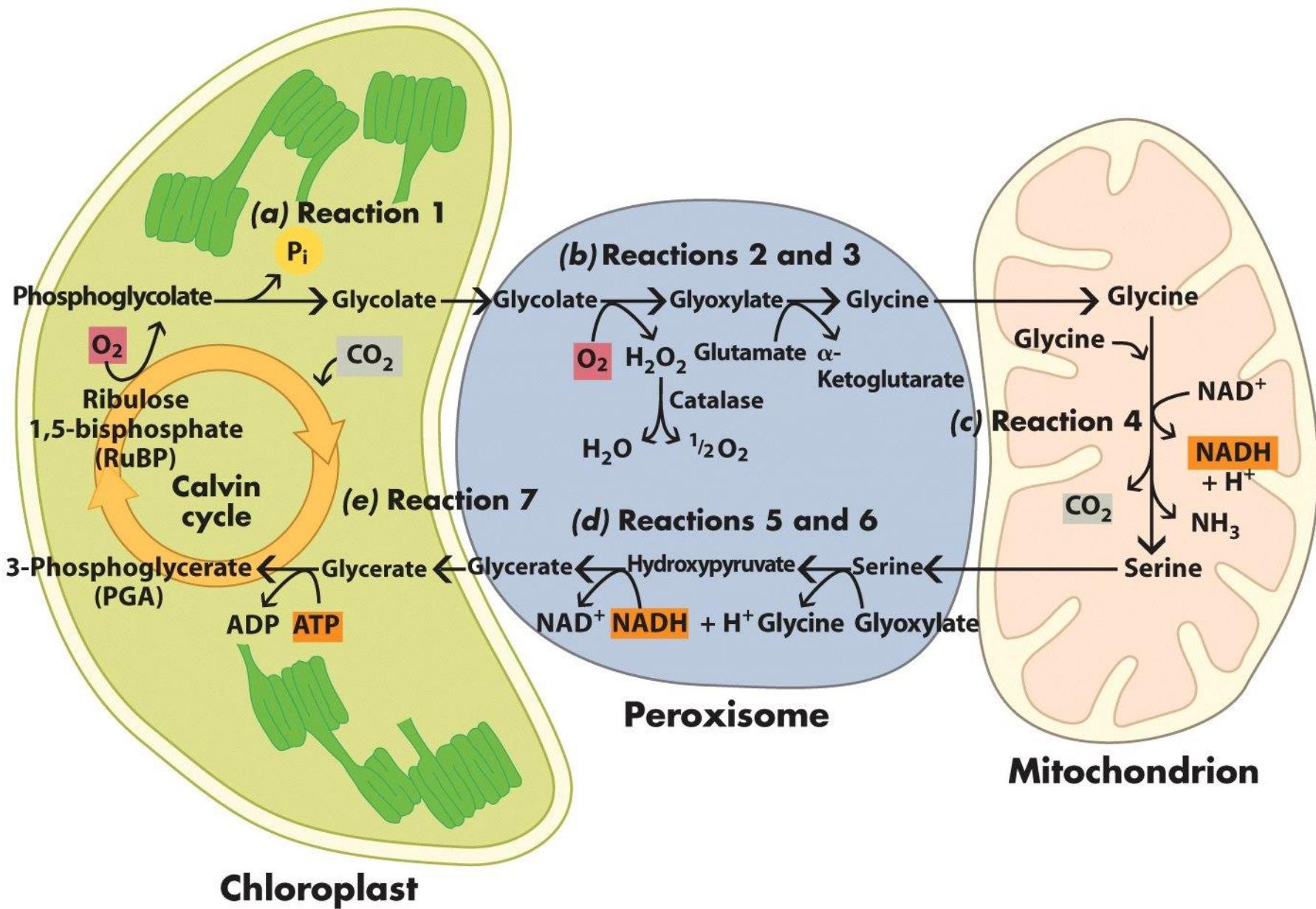


Figure 7-20

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- Concept : Alternative mechanisms of carbon fixation have evolved in hot, arid climates

- On hot, dry days, plants close their stomata
 - Conserving water but limiting access to CO₂
 - Causing oxygen to build up

Figure 10.21a

C4



Sugarcane

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C₄ Plants

- C₄ plants minimize the cost of photorespiration
 - By incorporating CO₂ into four carbon compounds in mesophyll cells

- These four carbon compounds
 - Are exported to bundle sheath cells, where they release CO₂ used in the Calvin cycle

• C₄ leaf anatomy and the C₄ pathway

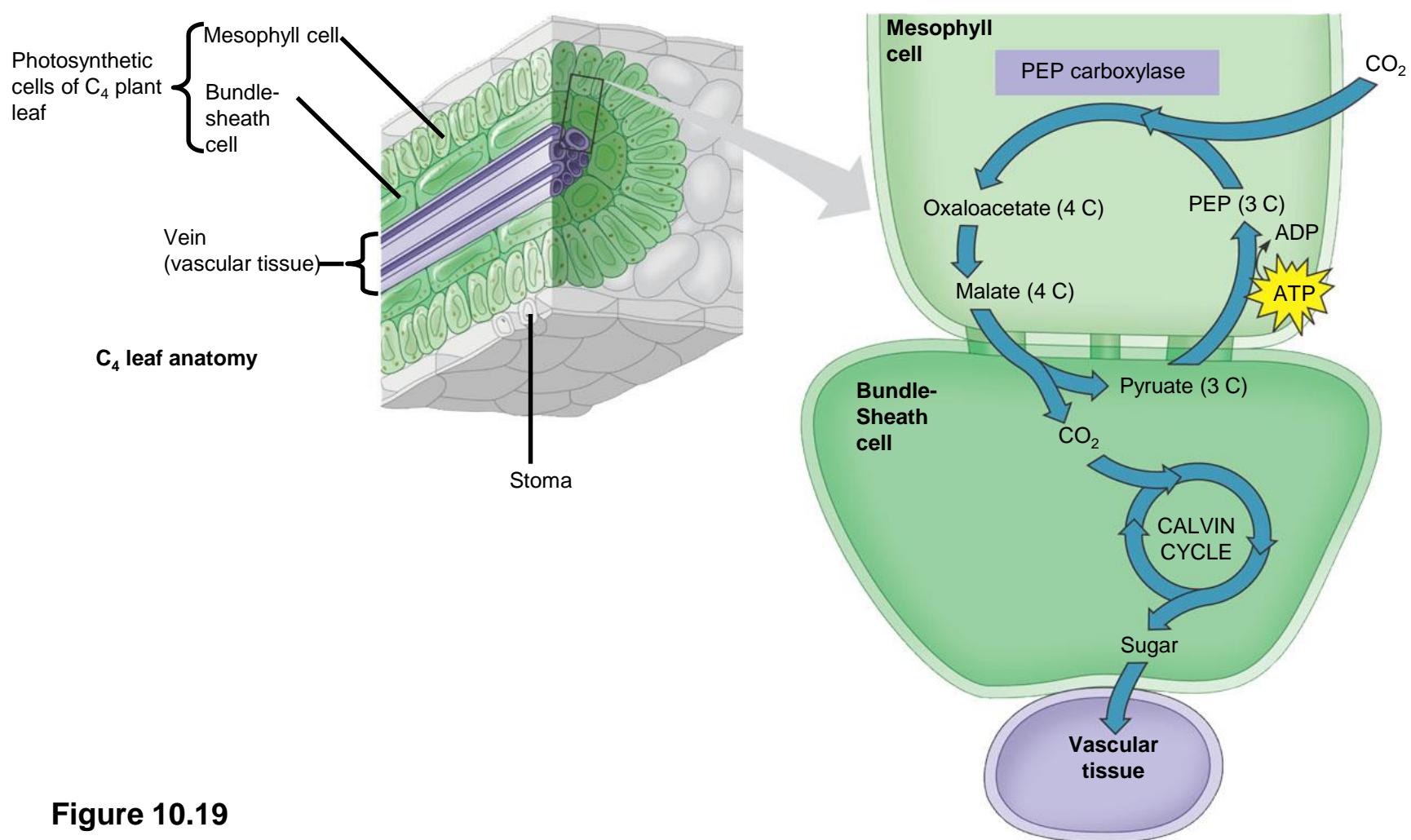


Figure 10.19

- C₄ and CAM plants have special adaptations that save water
 - In C₃ plants a drop in CO₂ and rise in O₂ when stomata close on hot dry days
 - Divert the Calvin cycle to photorespiration

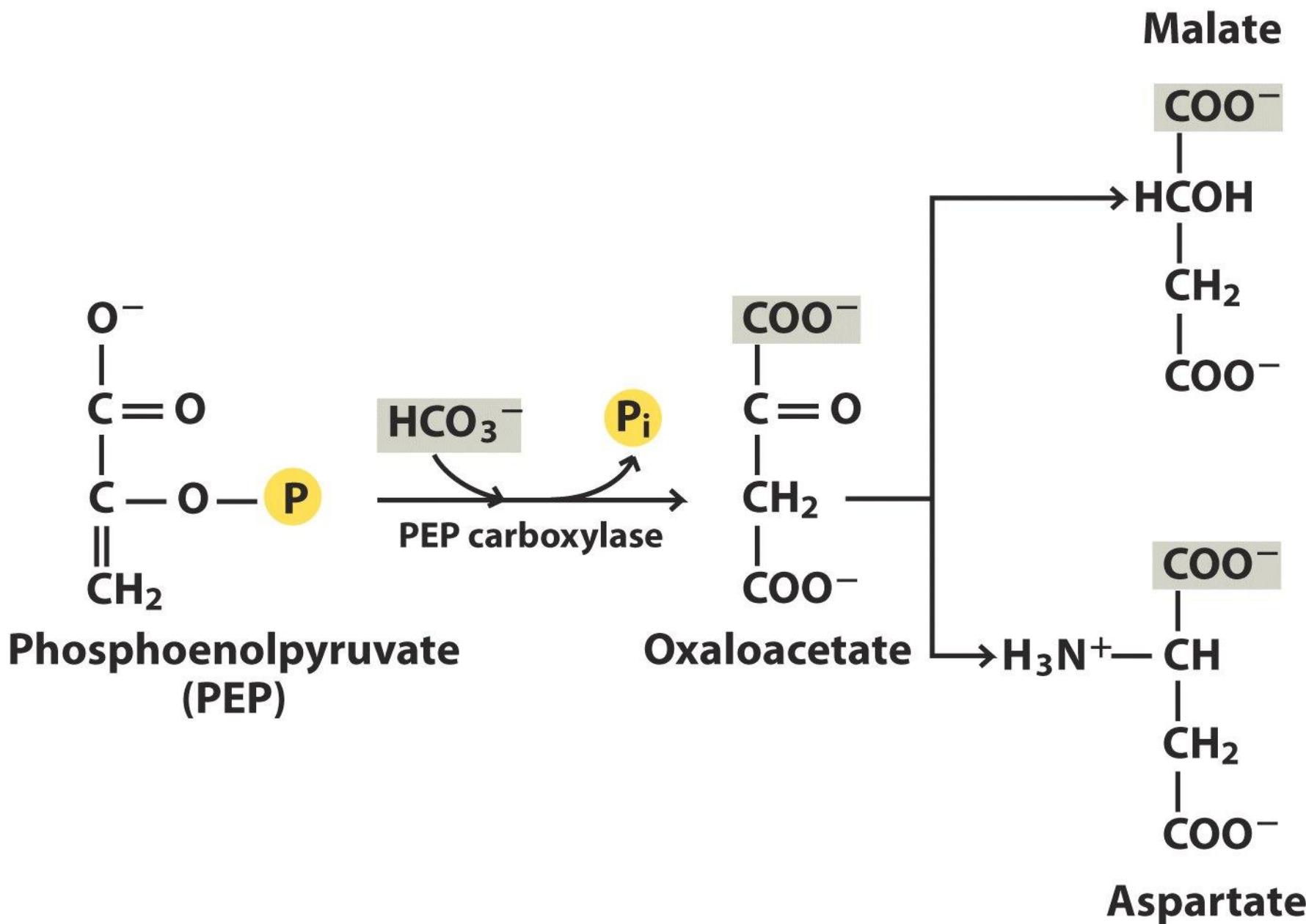


Figure 7-21

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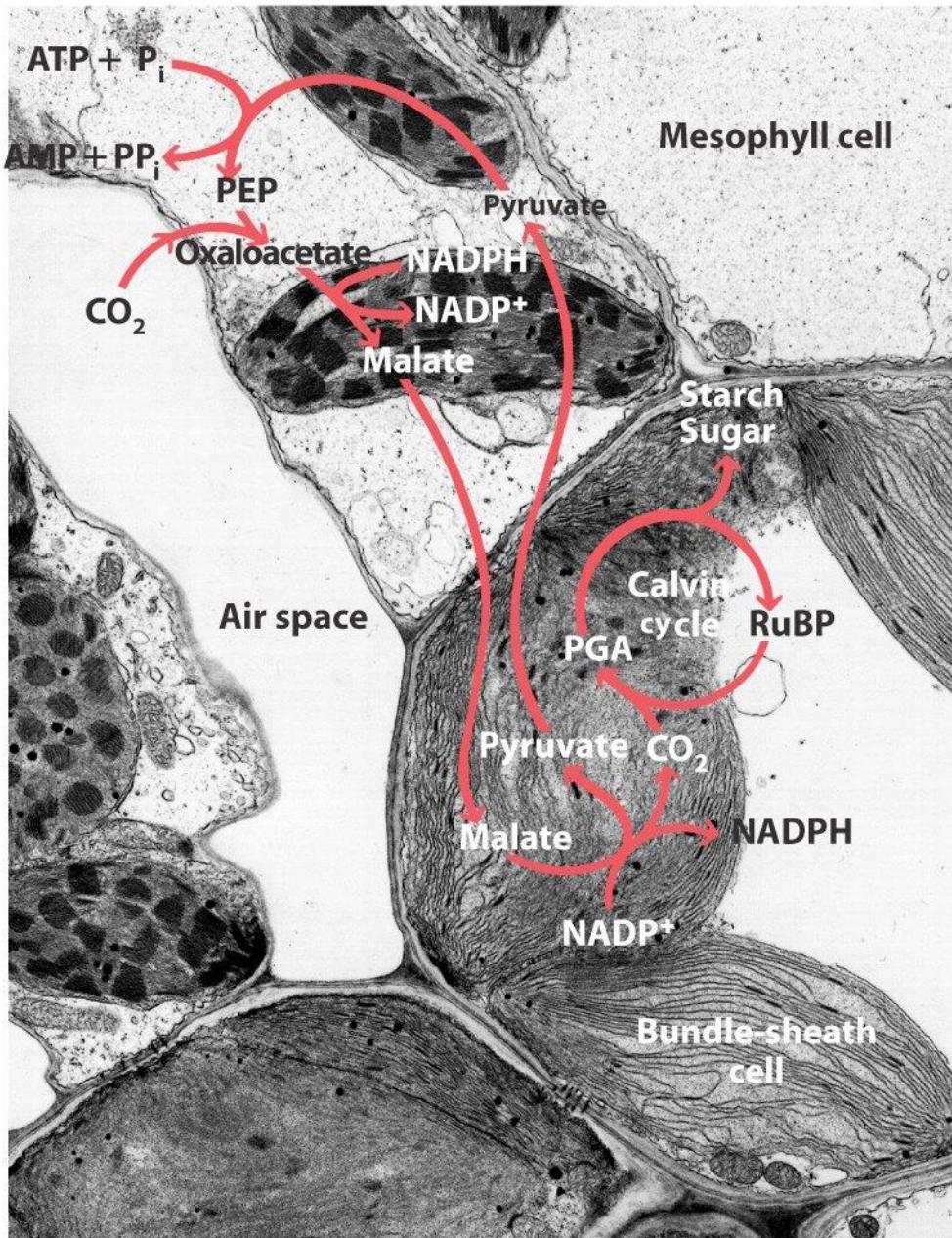


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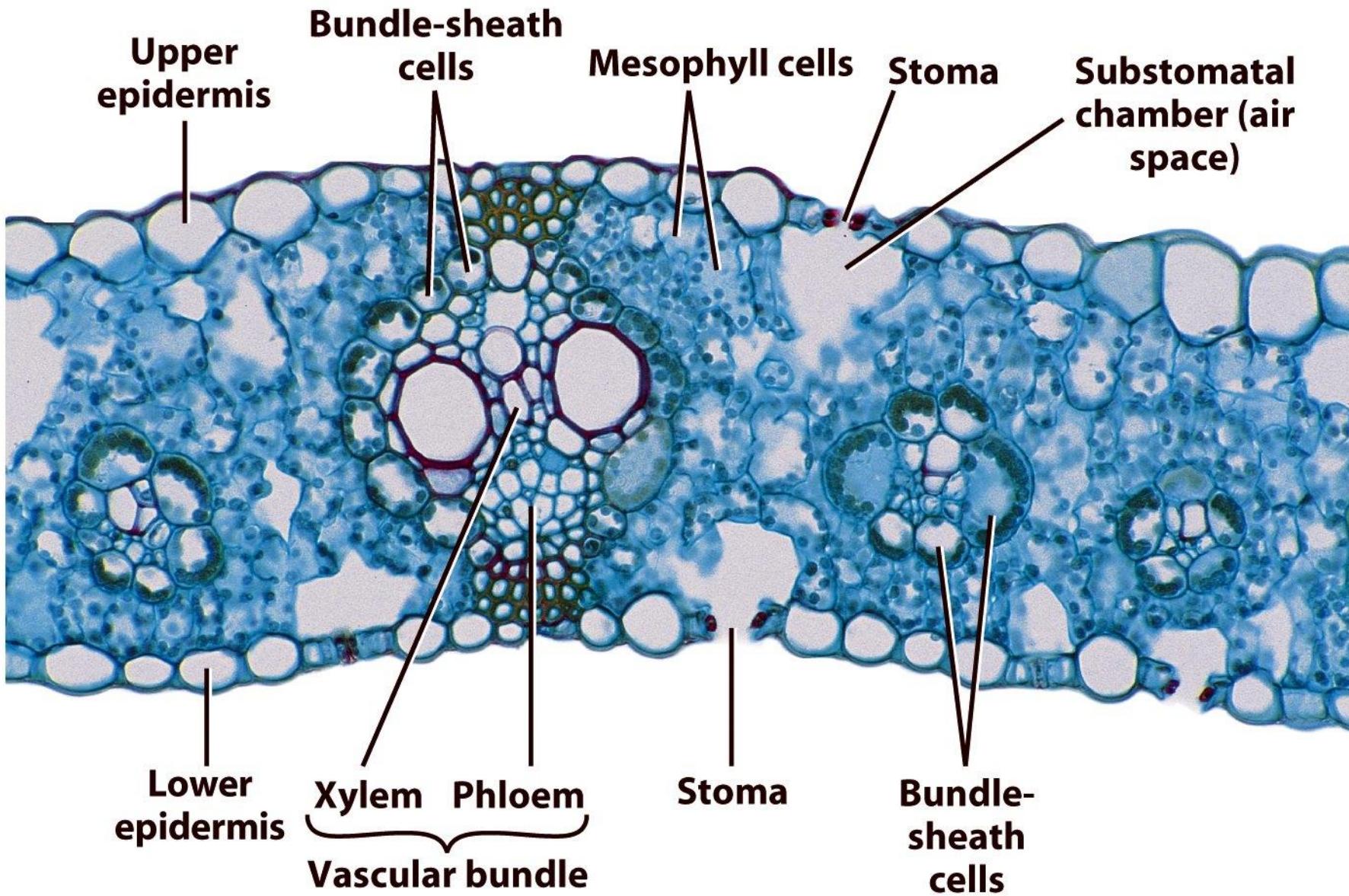


Figure 7-23

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**Mesophyll
chloroplast**

Granum —

**Bundle-
sheath
chloroplast**

Granum —



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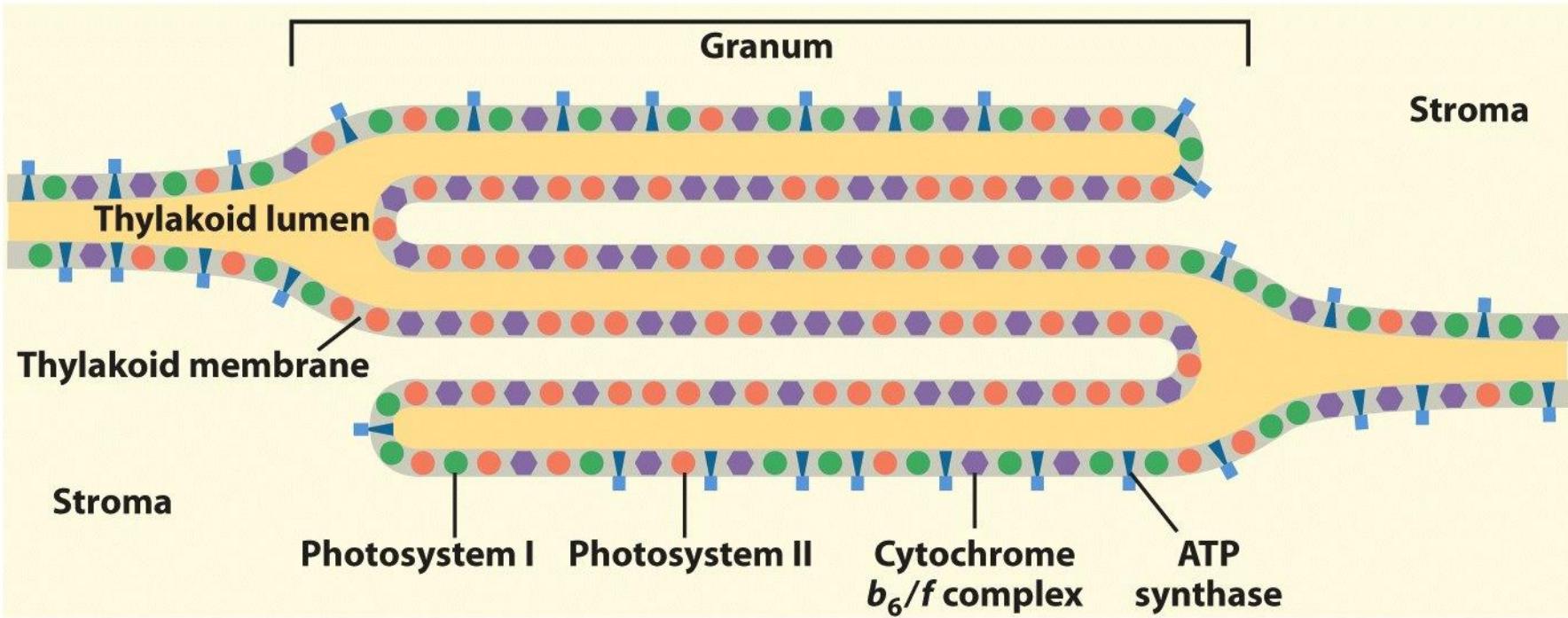


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CAM Plants

- CAM plants
 - Open their stomata at night, incorporating CO₂ into organic acids

- During the day, the stomata close
 - And the CO₂ is released from the organic acids for use in the Calvin cycle

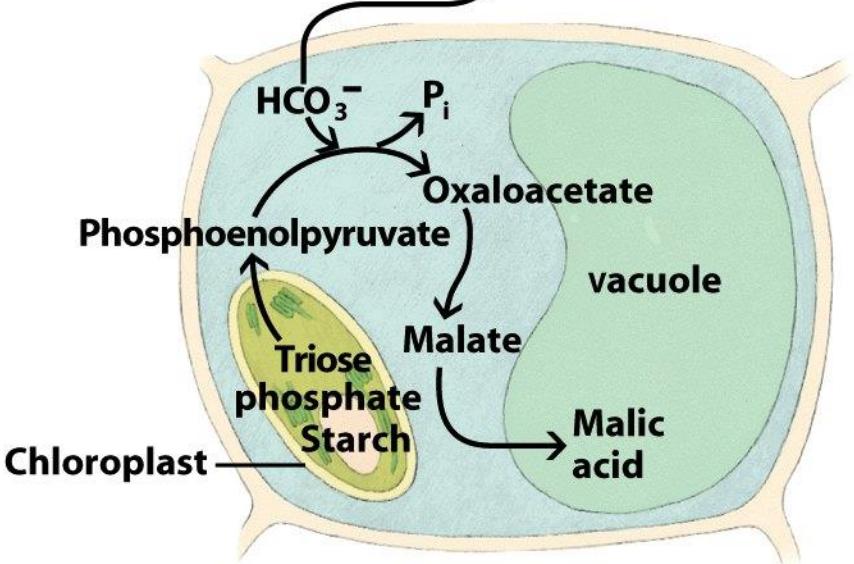
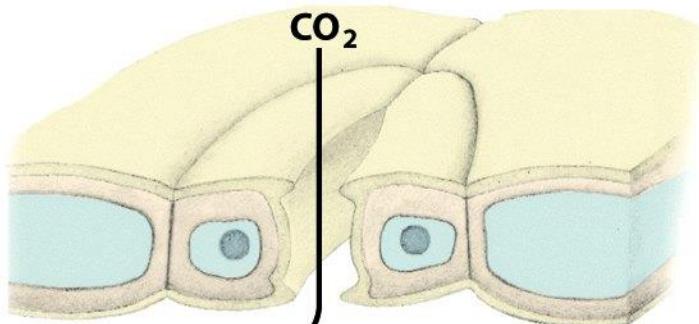
Figure 10.21b

CAM

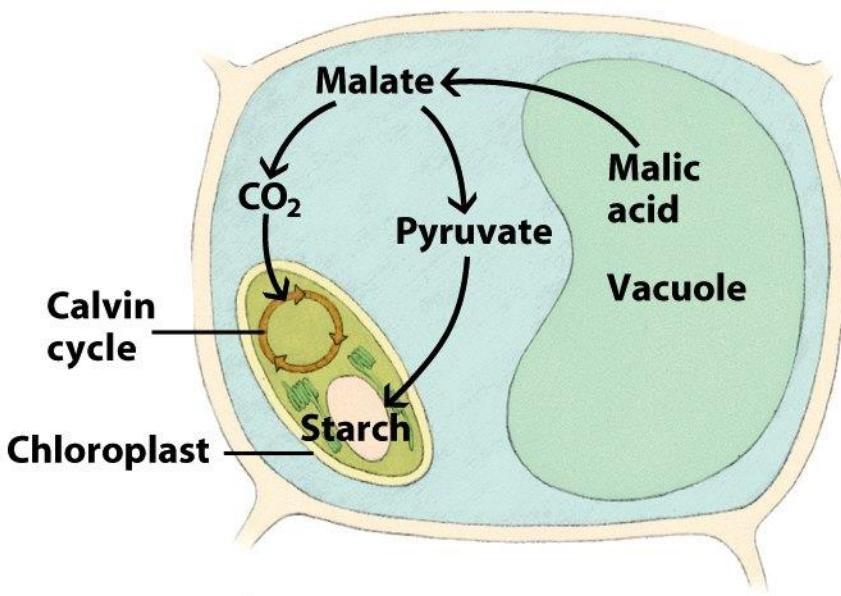
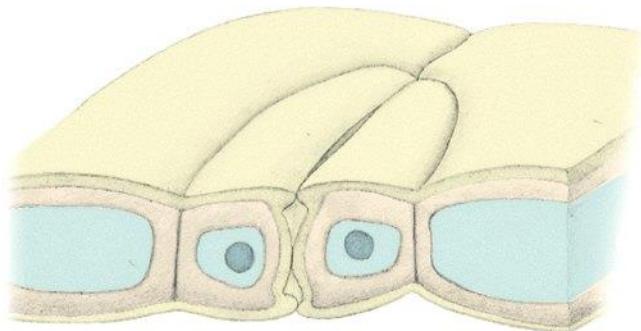


Pineapple

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(a) Night: stomata open



(b) Day: stomata closed

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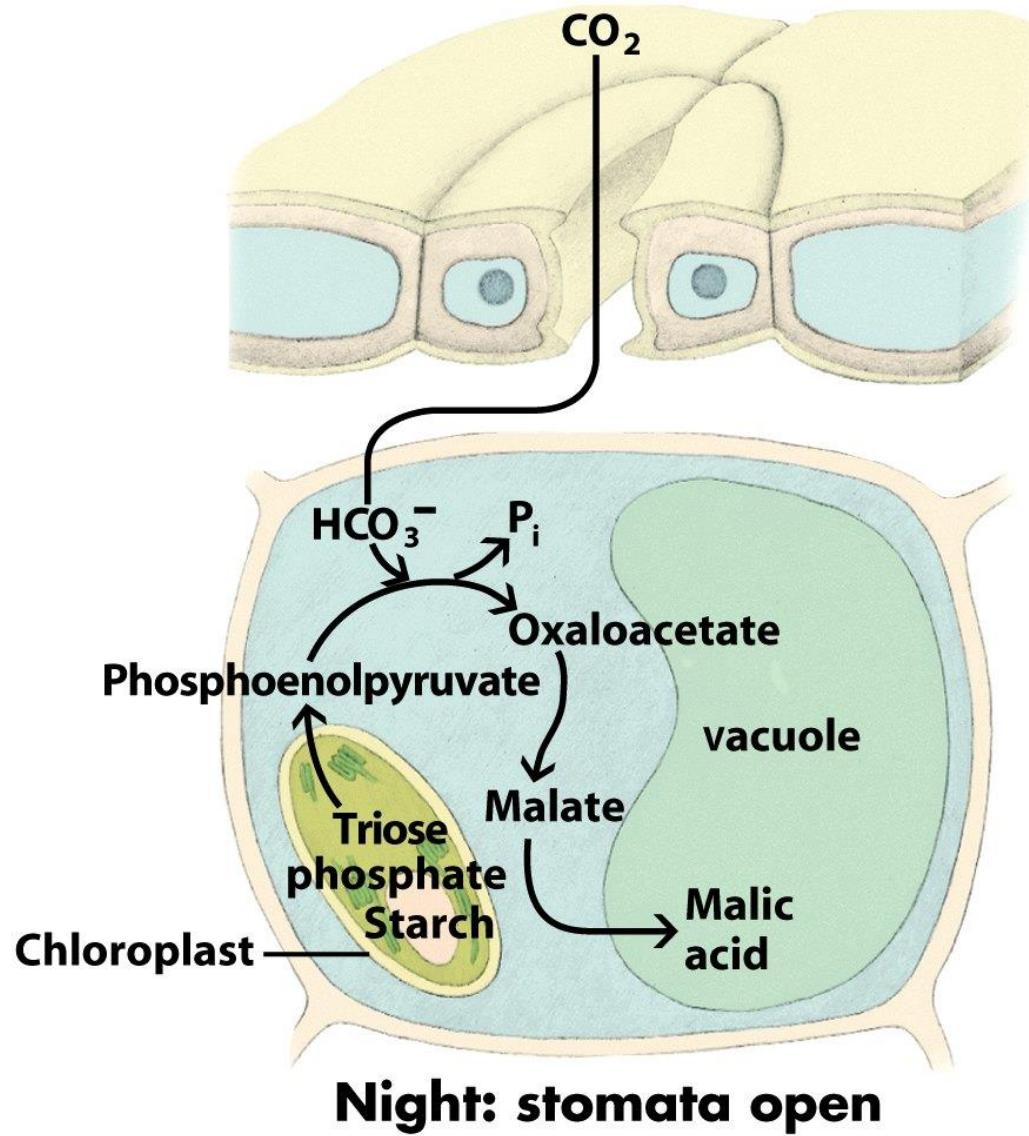


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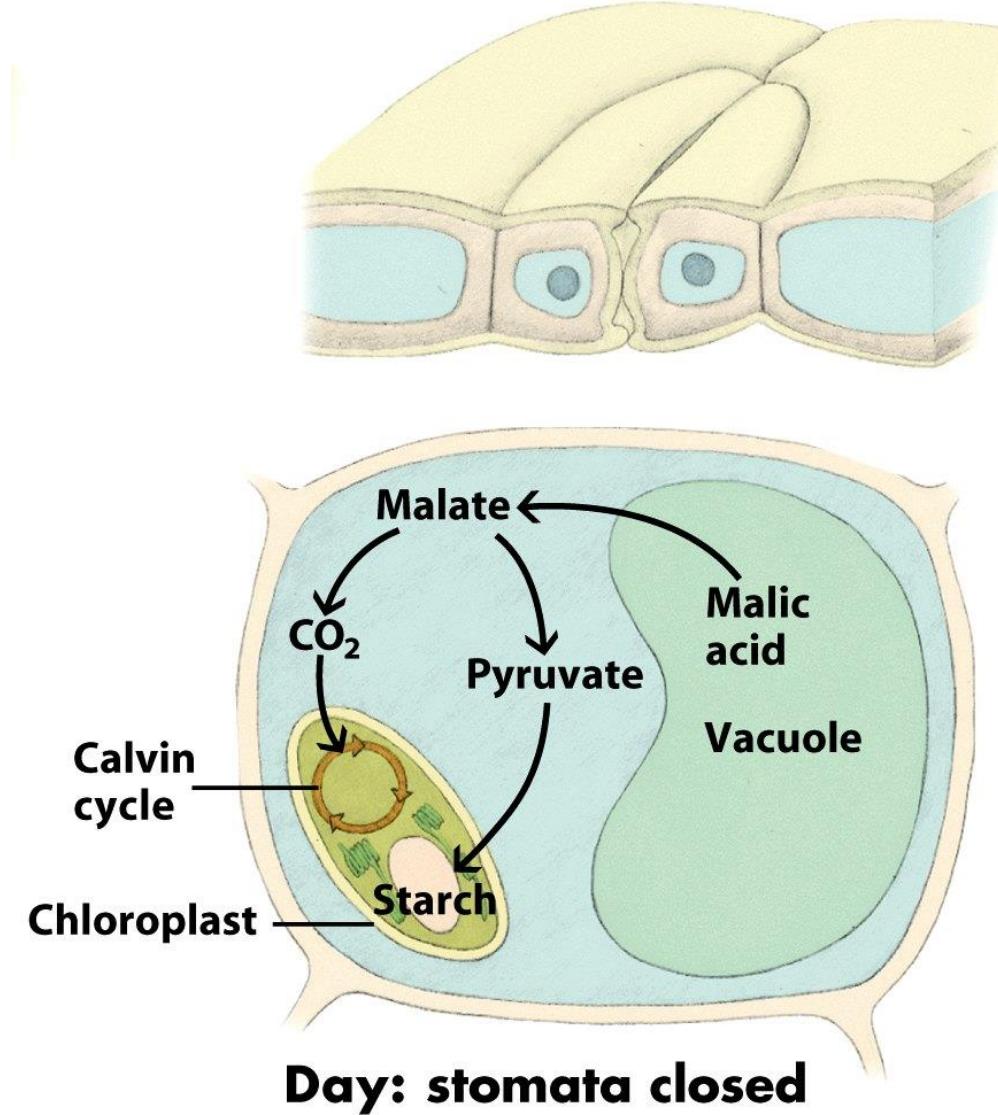


Figure 7-26b
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- The CAM pathway is similar to the C₄ pathway

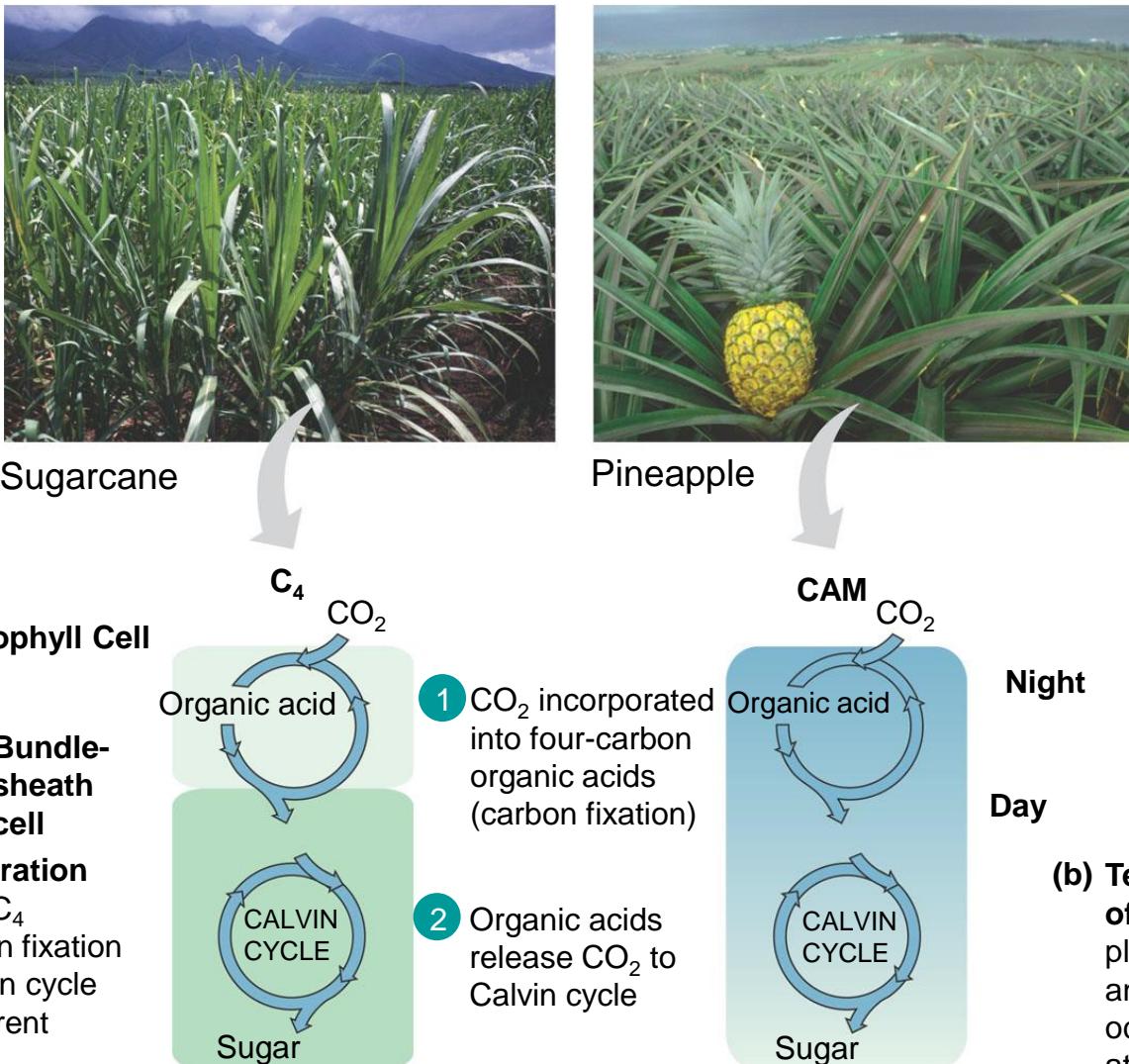


Figure 10.20

Figure 7.11-1

