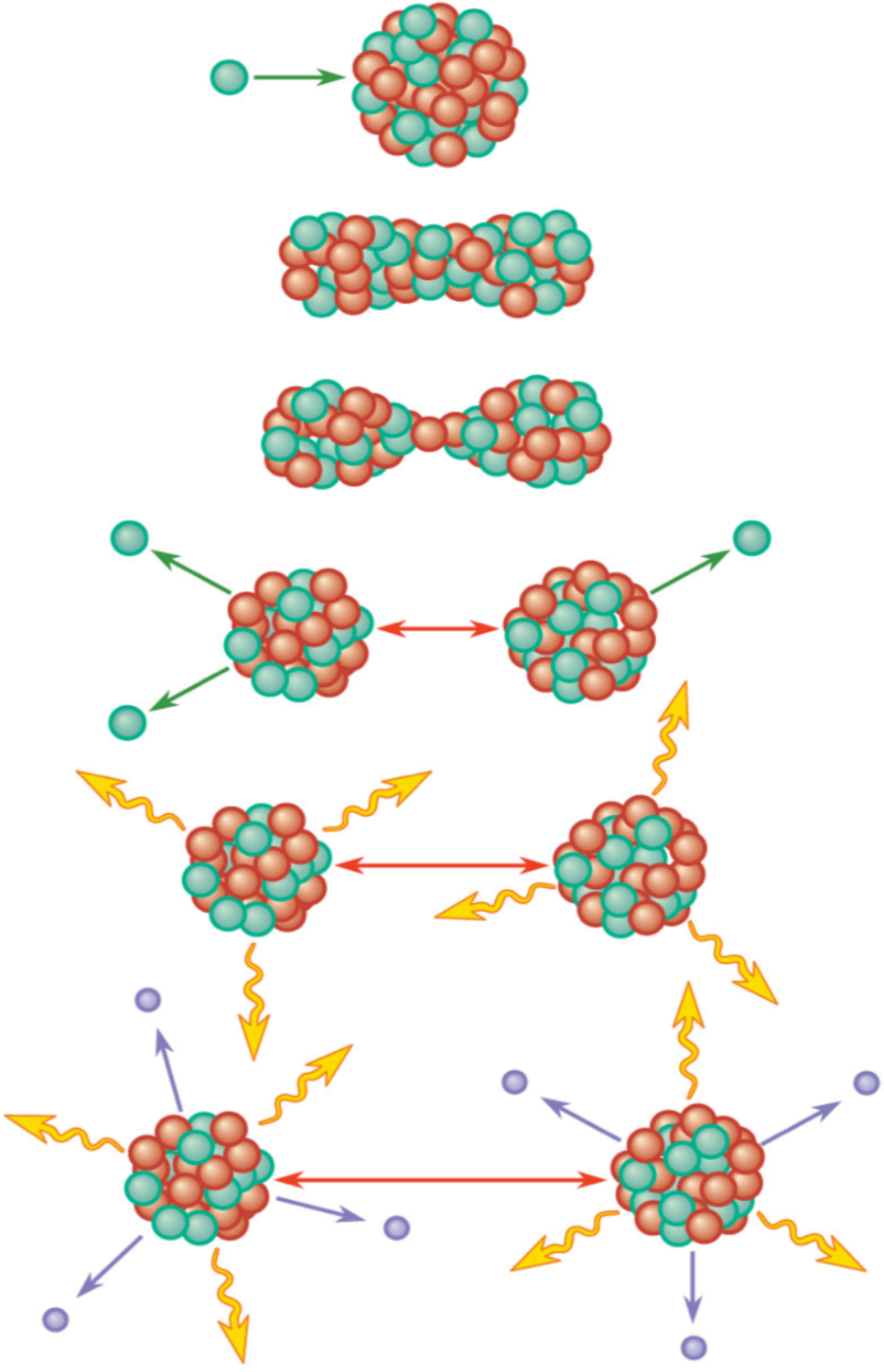

The neutron strikes the nucleus and is absorbed.

The absorbed neutron causes the nucleus to undergo deformation.

In about 10^{-14} second, one of the deformations is so drastic that the nucleus cannot recover.

The nucleus fissions, releasing an average of two to three neutrons.

In about 10^{-12} second, the fission fragments lose their kinetic energy and come to rest, emitting a number of gamma rays. Now the fragments are called fission products.

The fission products lose their excess energy by radioactive decay, emitting particles over a lengthy time period (seconds to years).

Neutrons Protons Beta particles Gamma rays