

Thinking Like a  
Chemist About  
Kinetics IV

UNIT 7 DAY 7

What are we going to learn today?

Reaction Coordinate

Activation Energy/ Transition State

Catalysts

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

HW 10 due Tue 9 AM

EXAM 3  
NEXT WED!

Quiz: Clicker Question

Write the overall reaction and the rate expressions that correspond to the following mechanisms. Be sure to eliminate intermediates from the answers.



intermediate

A. Rate =  $k[F]$

B. Rate =  $k[C][B]$

C. Rate =  $k[A][B]^2$

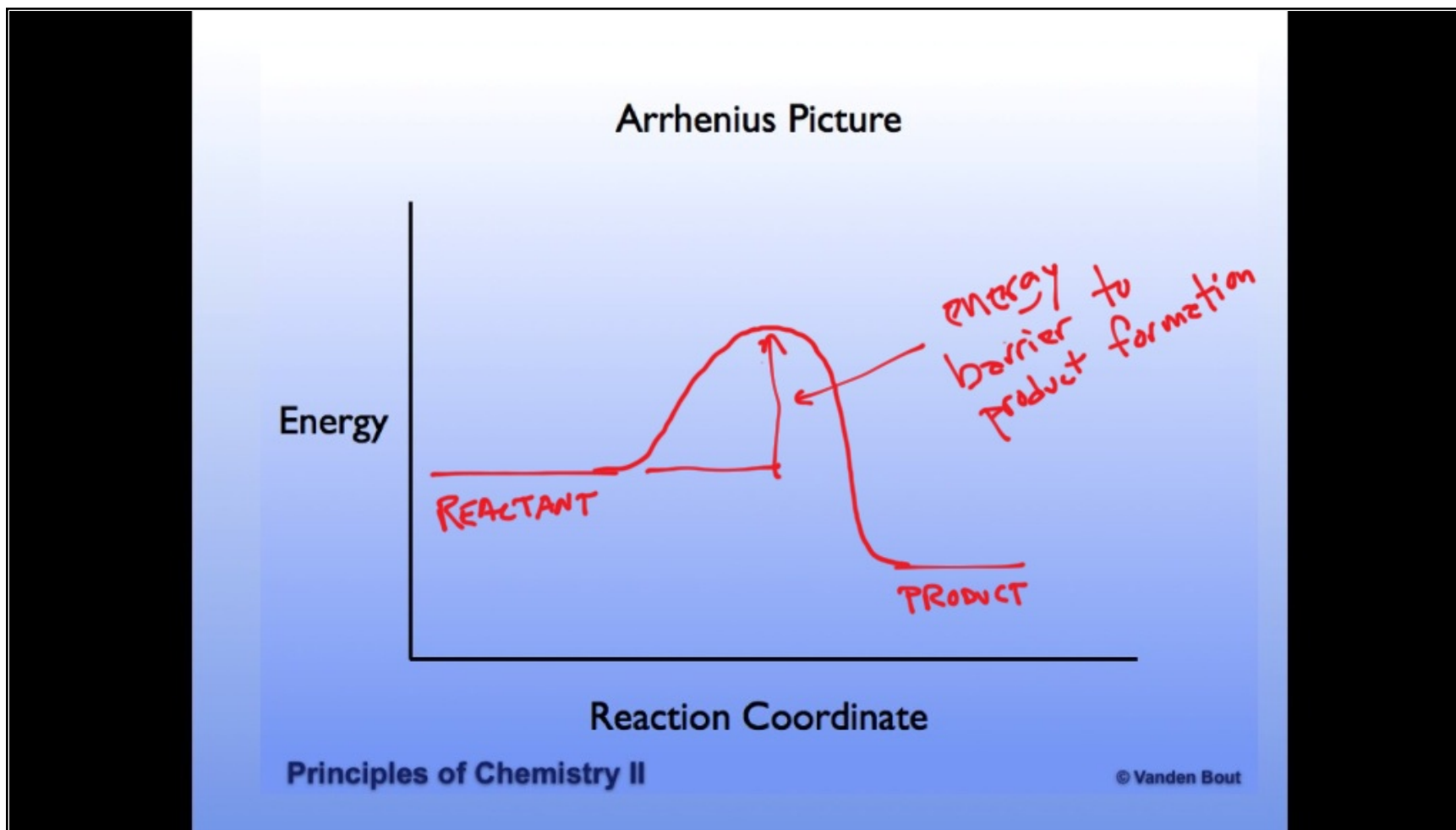
D. Rate =  $k[A]^2[B]^2$

$$\text{rate} = k_3 [F]$$

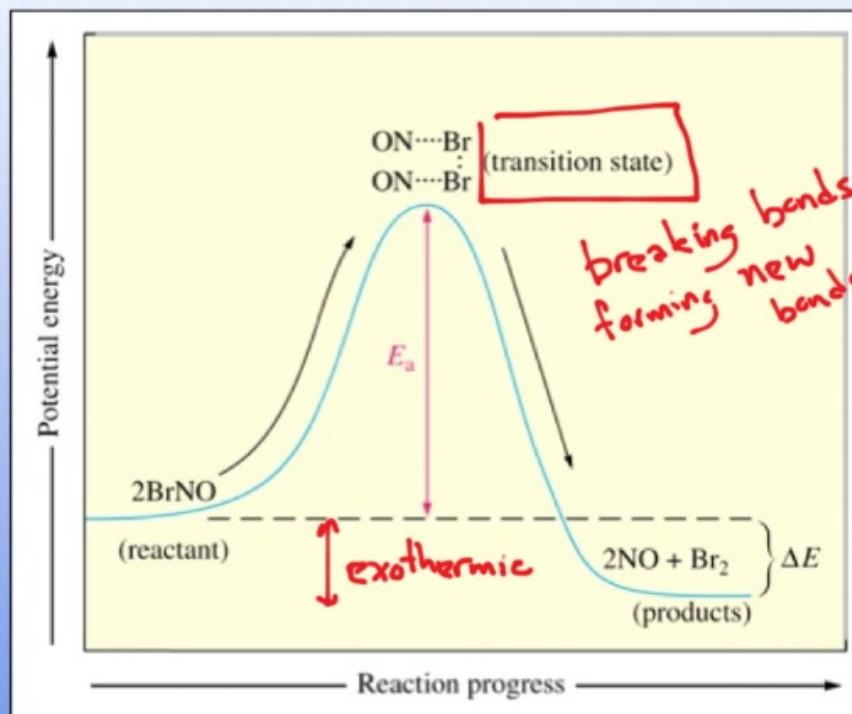
$$[F] = K_2 [B][C]$$

$$[C] = K_1 [A][B]$$

$$\text{rate} = k [A][B]^2$$



Do the molecules have "enough" energy to react?



Poll: Clicker Question

At a given temperature the molecules in a sample

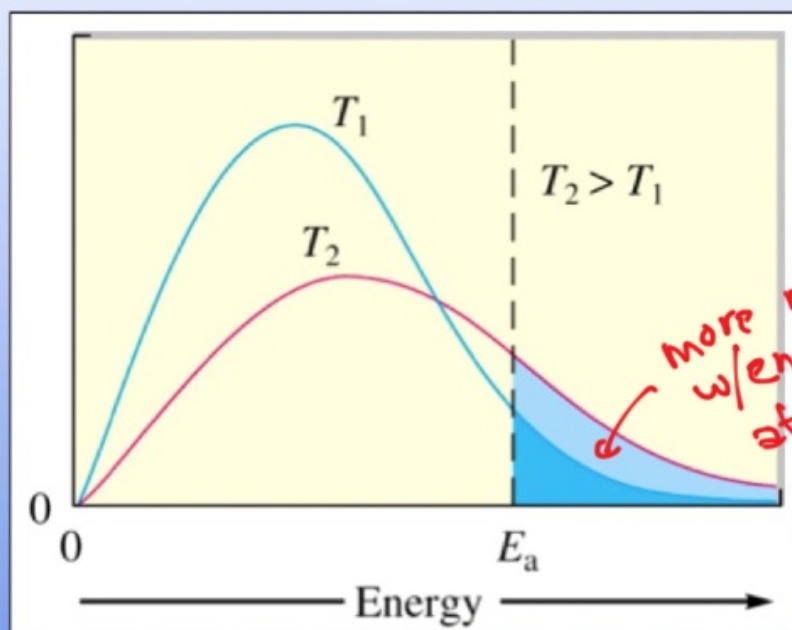
A. all have the same energy

B. have a distribution of energies

C. have one of several fixed energies

Boltzmann Distribution

How many molecules have enough energy to get over the barrier?





## Arrhenius Law

The rate constant  $k$  is a function of temperature

$$k = A e^{-E_a/RT}$$

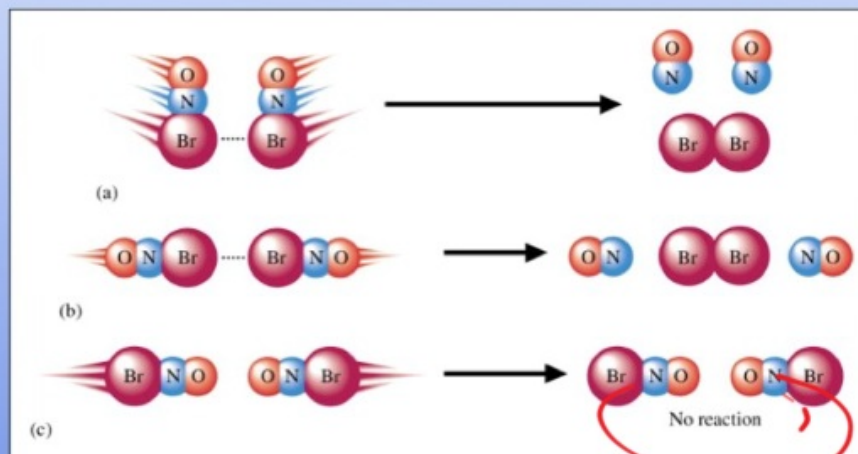
↙ MAX rate constant

fraction of molecules with sufficient energy to get over barrier

The higher the temperature the more molecules that have enough energy to make it over the barrier.

## What is A?

This is the rate at infinite temperature  
 (not all interactions between the molecules  
 even with sufficient energy will lead to products)



Some collisions = no reaction even  $E > E_a$

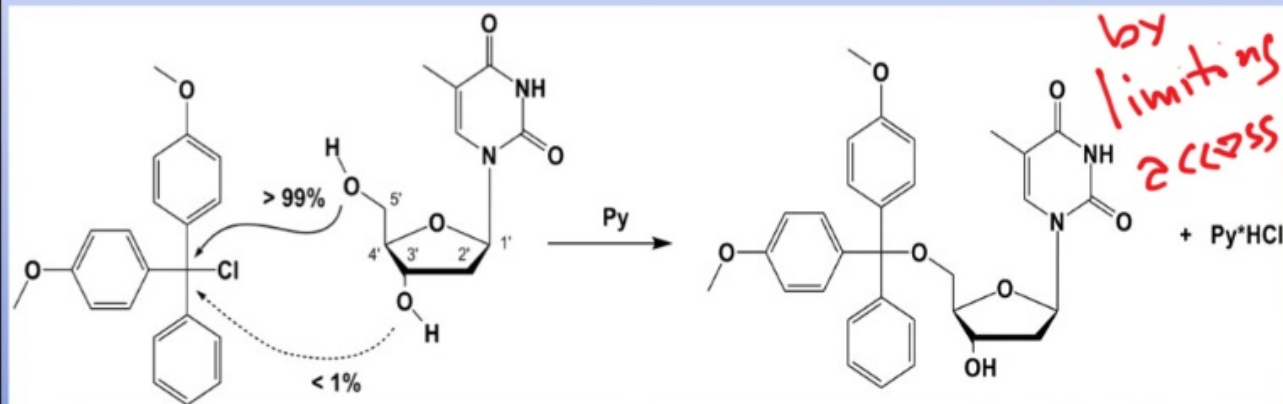
Very important in organic chemistry

“steric effect”  
 “steric hindrance”  
 “steric protection”

*Useful  
idea*

putting a big unreactive part of the molecule  
 “in the way”  
 to slow (or stop) the reaction

*Control  
chemistry*



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$$k = A e^{-E_a/RT}$$

$$\ln k = \ln A - E_a/RT$$

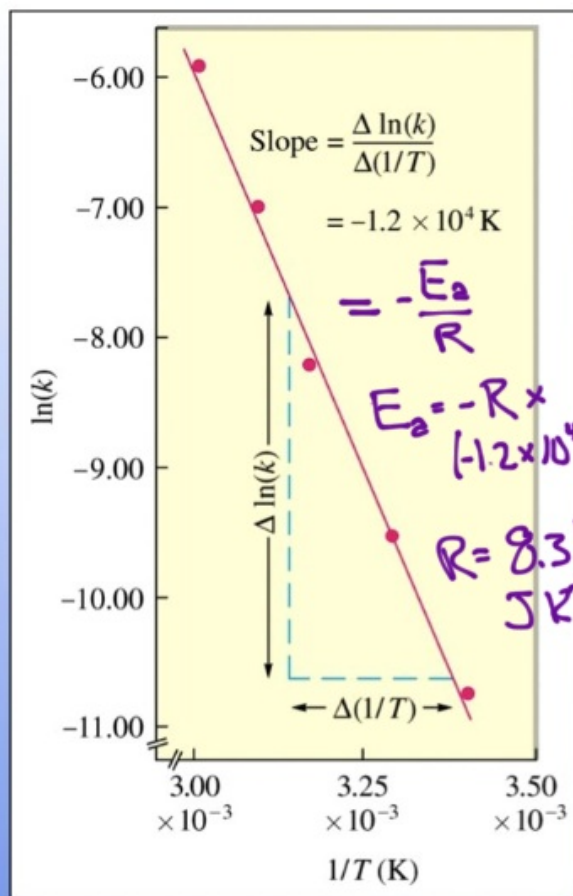
Let's look at two temperatures.

$$\ln k_1 = \ln A - E_a/RT_1$$

$$\ln k_2 = \ln A - E_a/RT_2$$

Plot  $\ln k$   
vs  $1/T$   
Slope =  $-E_e/R$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \ln k \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \ln A \\ b \end{pmatrix} + m \begin{pmatrix} -\left(\frac{E_a}{R}\right) \\ x \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \left(\frac{1}{T}\right) \end{pmatrix}$$



Poll: Clicker Question

What is the activation energy for this reaction?

- A.  $-1.2 \times 10^4 \text{ K}$
- B.  $1 \times 10^5 \text{ J mol}^{-1}$
- C.  $1.2 \times 10^4 \text{ J mol}^{-1}$
- D.  $1 \times 10^5 \text{ K}$
- E.  $-1 \times 10^2 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$

Why are reactions faster at higher temperatures?

More molecules have sufficient energy to get over the barrier.

=

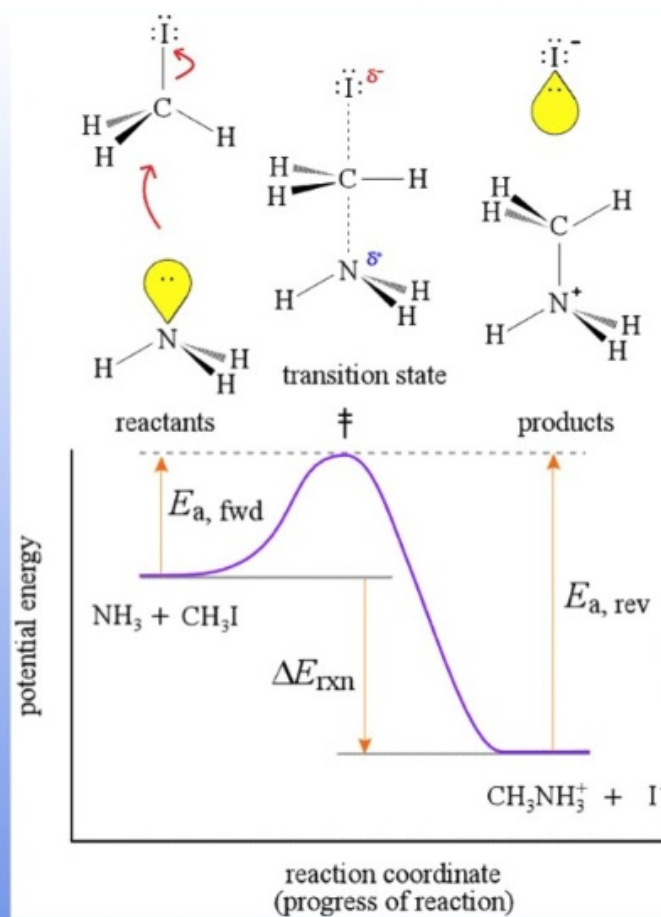
BIG EFFECT

More molecules have collisions (but this is a very small effect) that is ignored in Arrhenius view

THIS AN IMPORTANT POINT!!

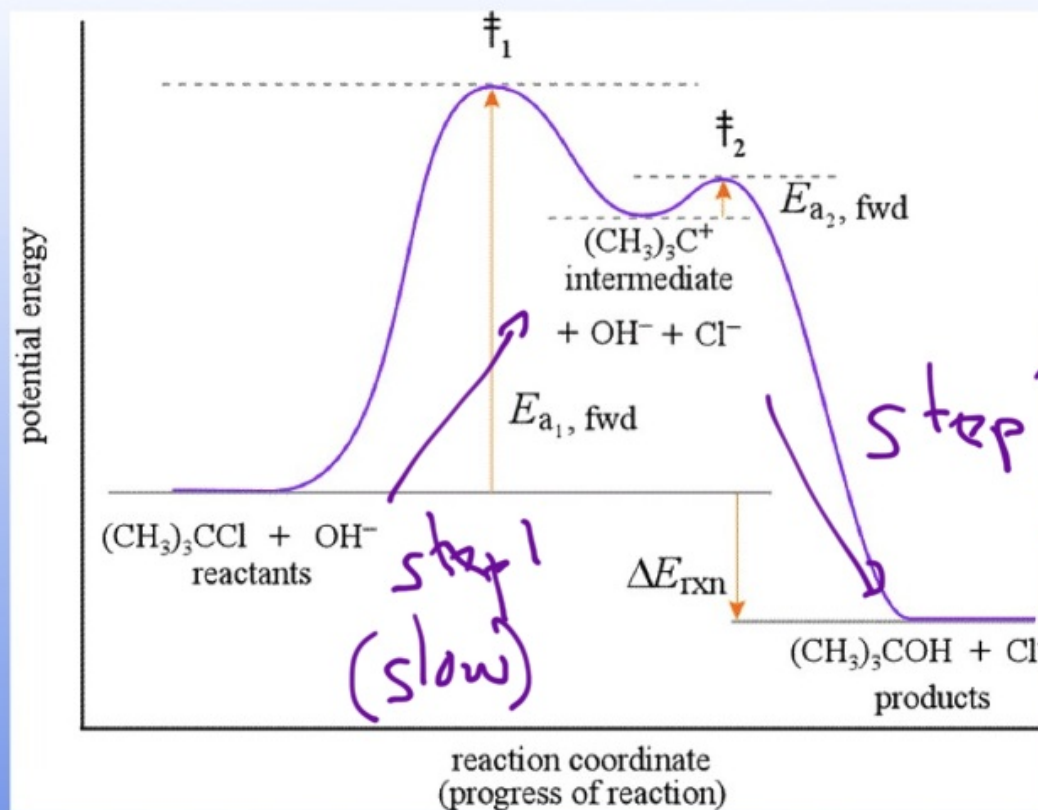
# Transition State Theory

1 step  
1 barrier  
1 transition state



Think about it

### Transition State Theory



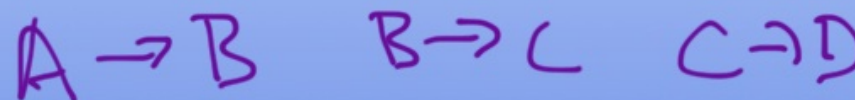
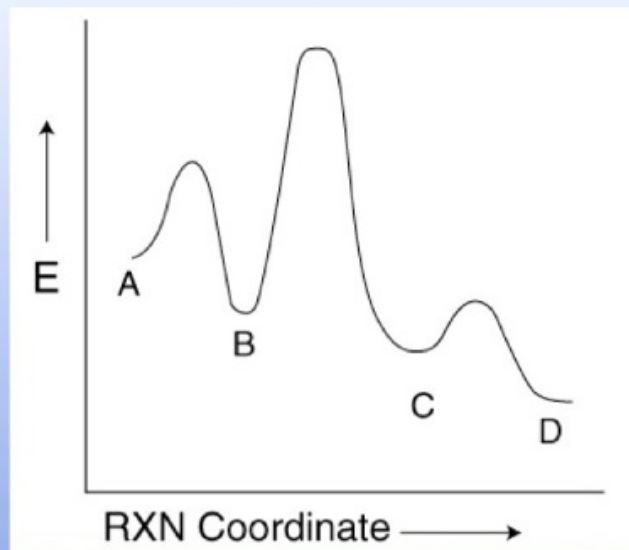


Poll: Clicker Question

## Transition State Theory

According to the graph, the mechanism for this reaction will have \_\_\_\_ steps.

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4

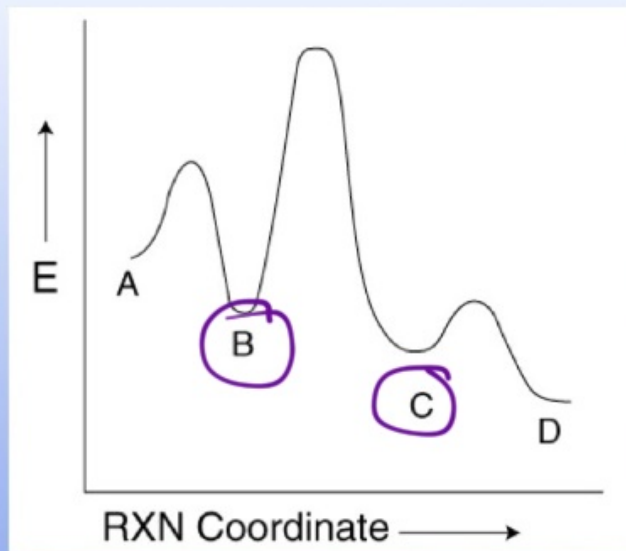


Poll: Clicker Question

## Transition State Theory

According to the graph,  
the reaction will have  
\_\_\_ intermediates.

- A. 1
- B. 2**
- C. 3
- D. 4



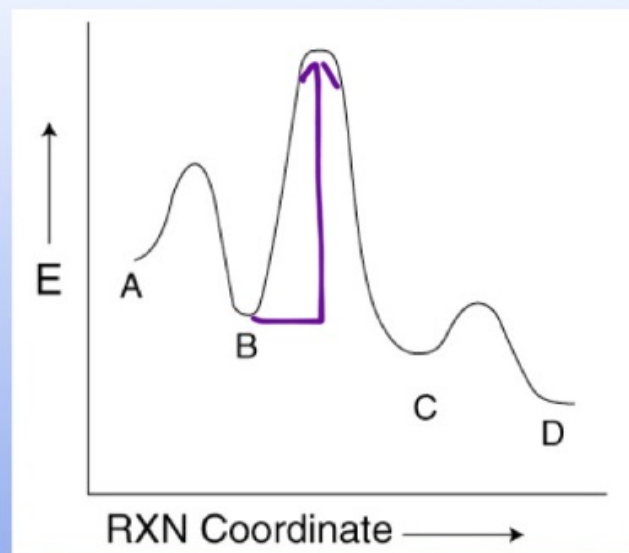
Poll: Clicker Question

## Transition State Theory

According to the graph,  
the slow step will be.

- A. step 1,  $A \rightarrow B$
- B. step 2,  $B \rightarrow C$
- C. step 3,  $C \rightarrow D$

Biggest  
Barrier



Poll: Clicker Question

Which of the following factors that affect the rate of a reaction do so by changing the activation energy?

A. Increasing the temperature of the reaction mixture

*RT vs  $E_a$  → ↑*

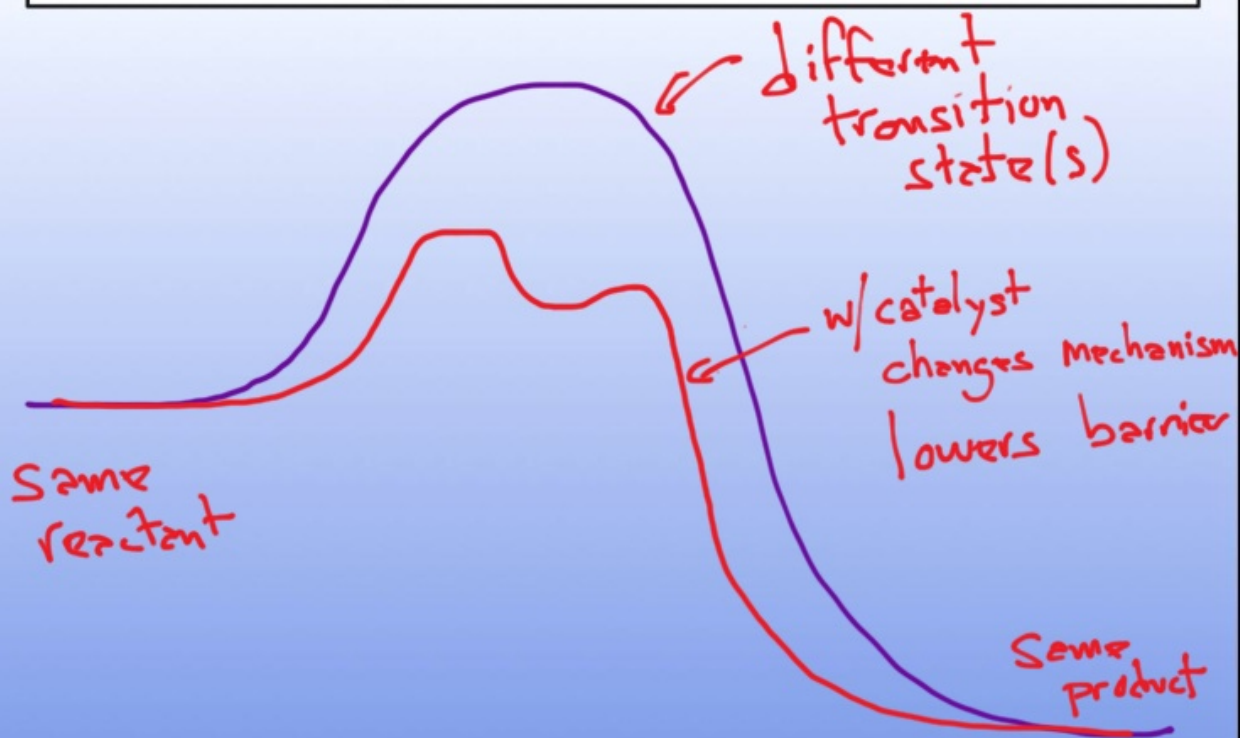
B. Increasing the surface area of a reactant

C. Increasing the concentration of a reactant

*collisions*

D. Adding a catalyst to the reaction mixture

What is a catalyst?

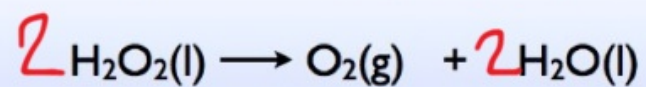


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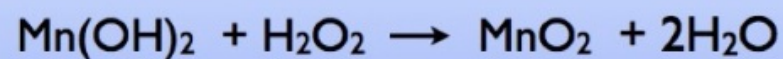
## DEMONSTRATION

### Decomposition of Hydrogen Peroxide

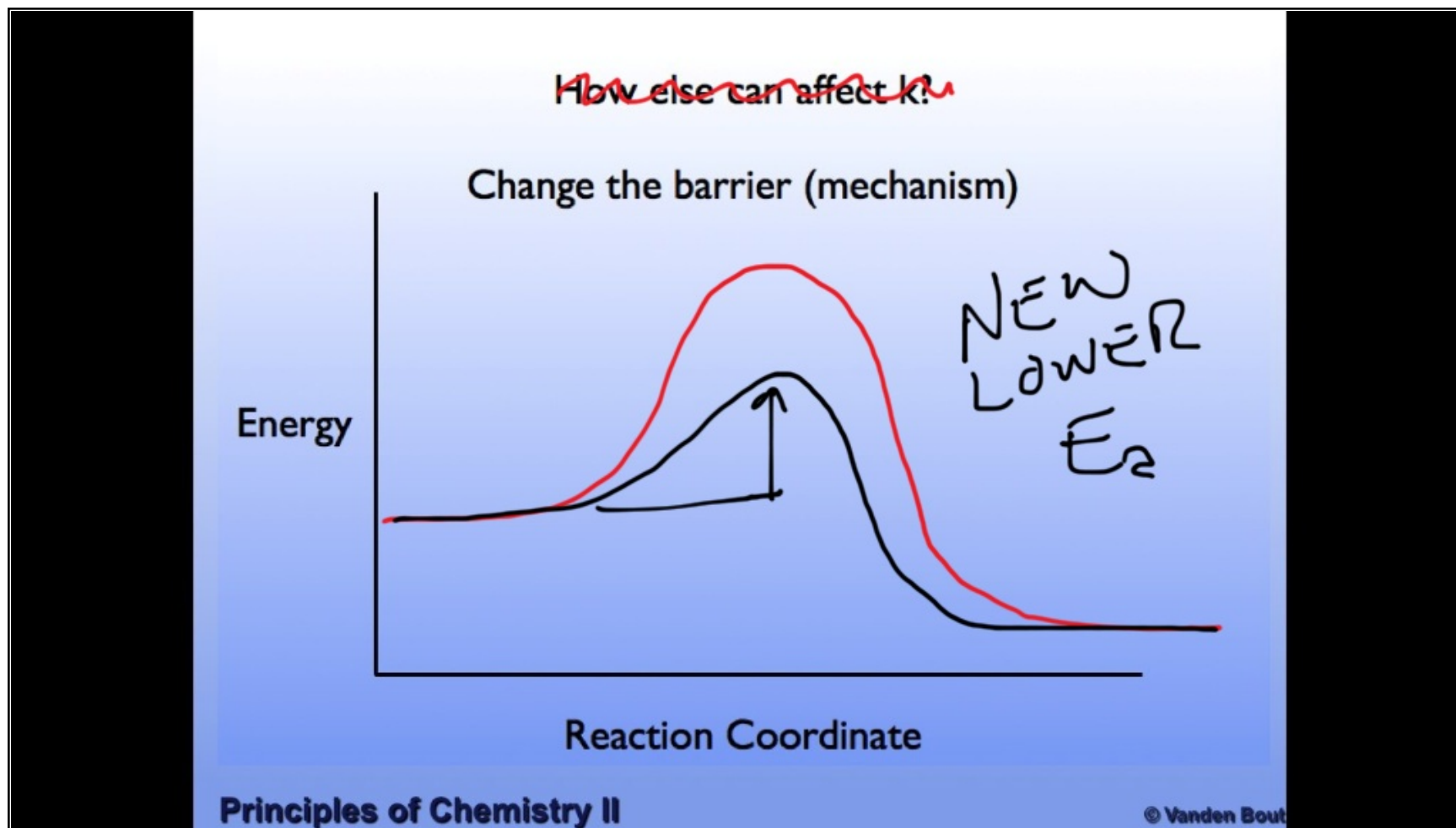


This reaction is very slow at room temperature  
(thus you can get a bottle of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  at the store)

What happens when I add the catalyst

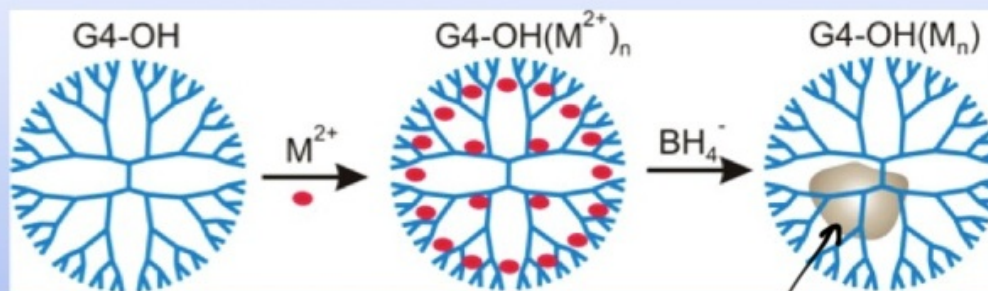


Note: During the reaction the catalyst changes.  
But at the end it is back to the same compound!





Freshman Research Initiative Project  
Nanomaterials

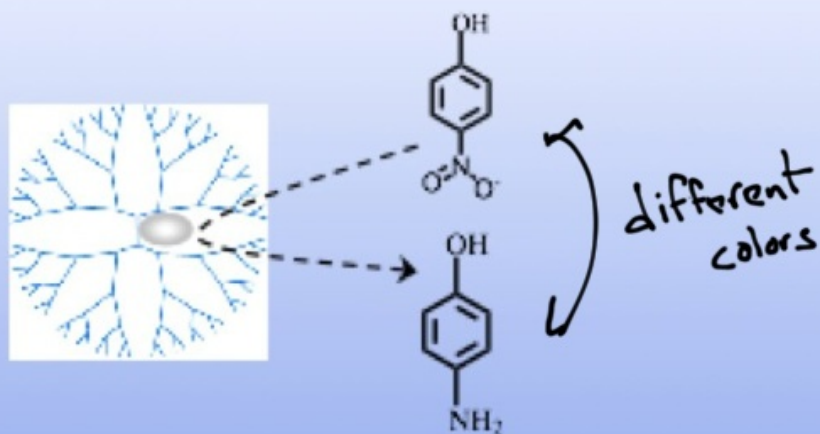


Dendrimer encapsulated nanoparticle

small metal particle can be made  
of a variety of materials (Au, Ag, Pd,  
Pt, Cu, Pt/Cu, Pd/Cu,....)

metal  
nanoparticle  
catalyst

How good is the catalyst? Measure the kinetics.  
Do the worksheet.....



Poll: Clicker Question

pseudo-first order  
in NP

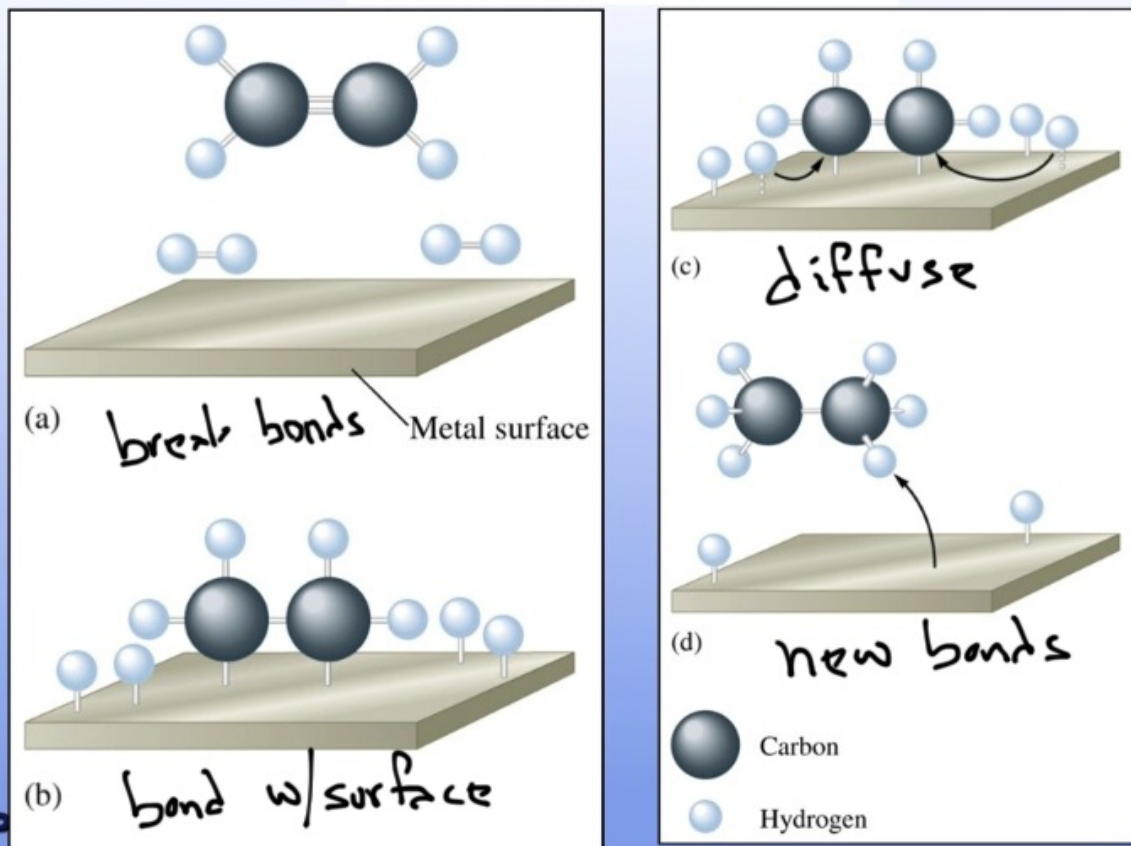
Q1: What can you predict about the  $[\text{NaBH}_4]$ ?

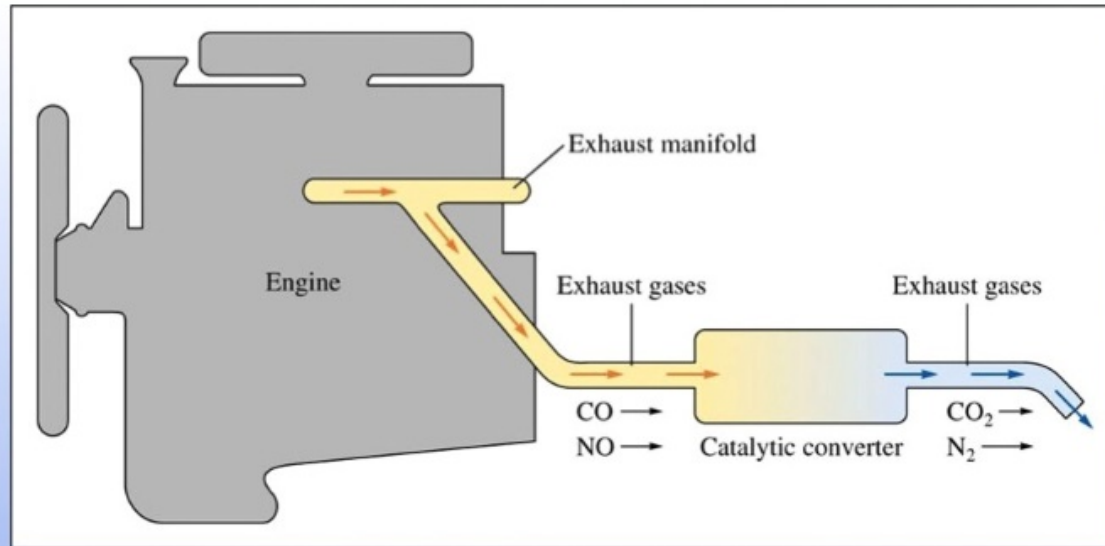
A. It has a very low concentration compared to  $[\text{NP}]$  so we will see it mostly used up during the reaction.

B. It has a very high concentration compared to  $[\text{NP}]$  so we will see its concentration stay relatively constant during the reaction.

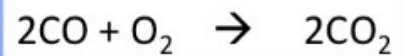
C. Its concentration is similar to  $[\text{NP}]$  so both  $[\text{NP}]$  and  $[\text{NaBH}_4]$  may affect the reaction rate.

### How do many catalysts work?

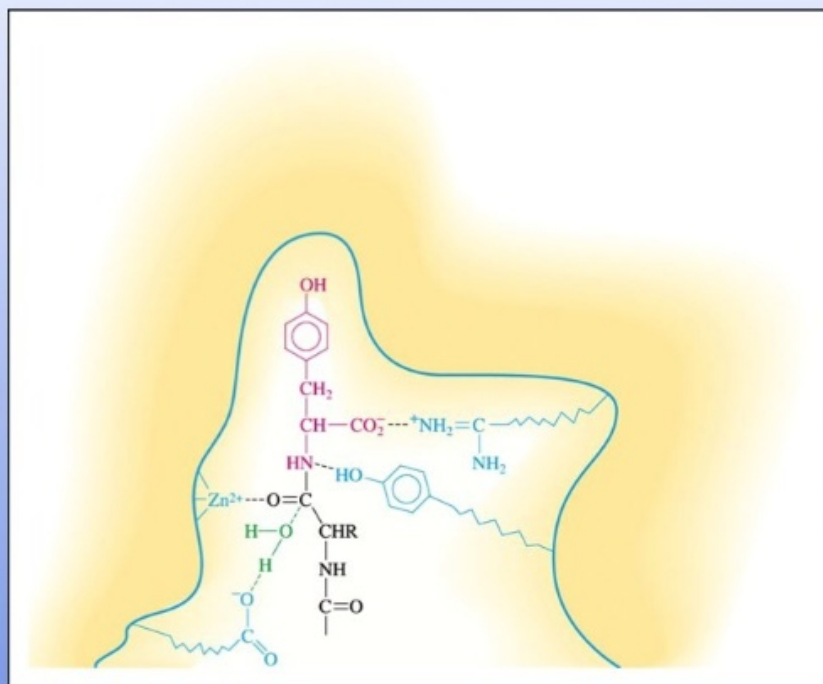




Catalyzes three chemical reactions



## Enzymes Biological Catalysts



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