

Concept 6.2 Carbohydrate Catabolism in the Presence of Oxygen Releases a Large Amount of Energy

Cellular Respiration

A lot of energy is released when reduced molecules with many C—C and C—H bonds are fully oxidized to CO₂.

Oxidation occurs in a series of small steps in three pathways:

1. glycolysis
2. pyruvate oxidation
3. citric acid cycle

Figure 6.8 Energy Metabolism Occurs in Small Steps

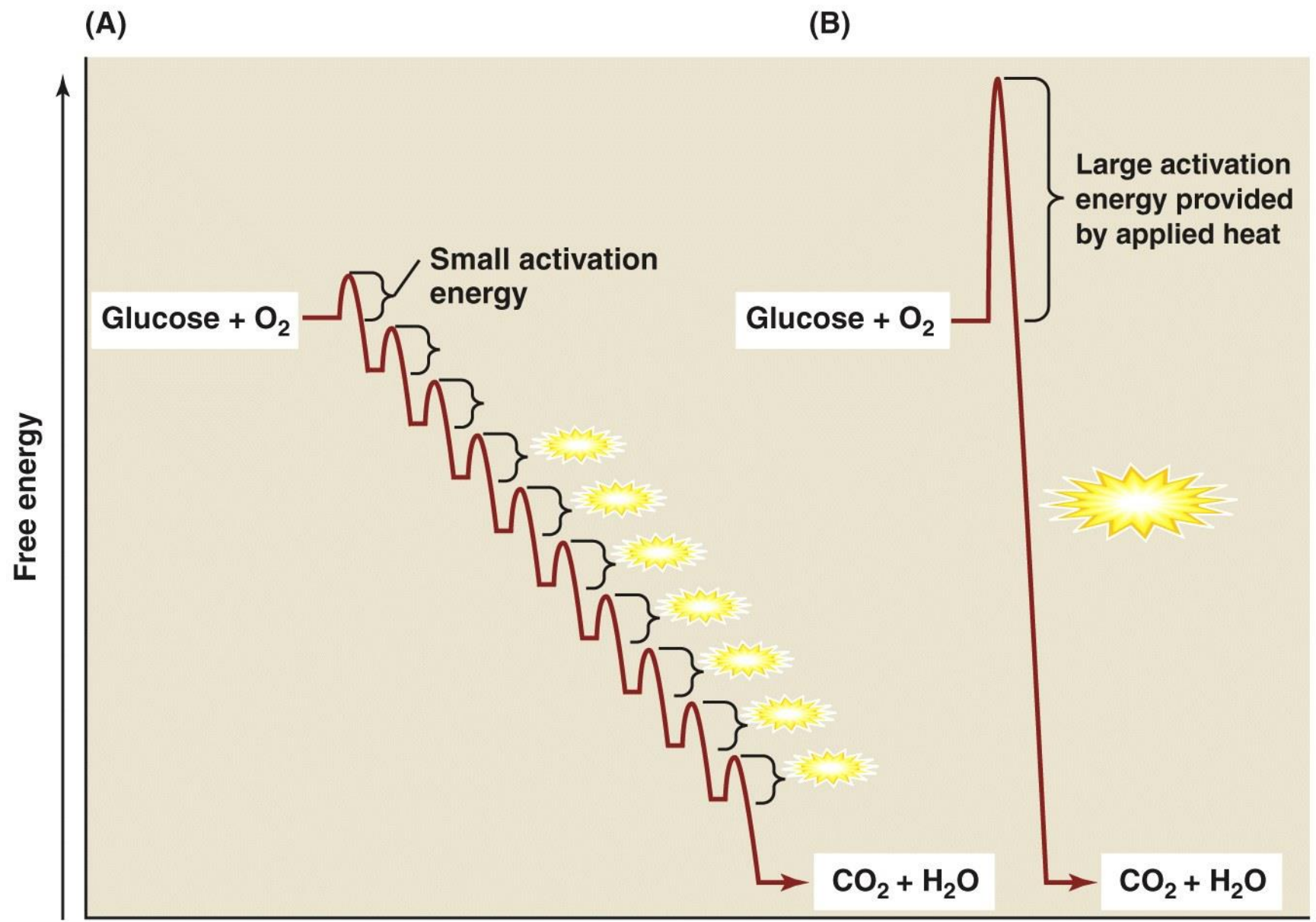
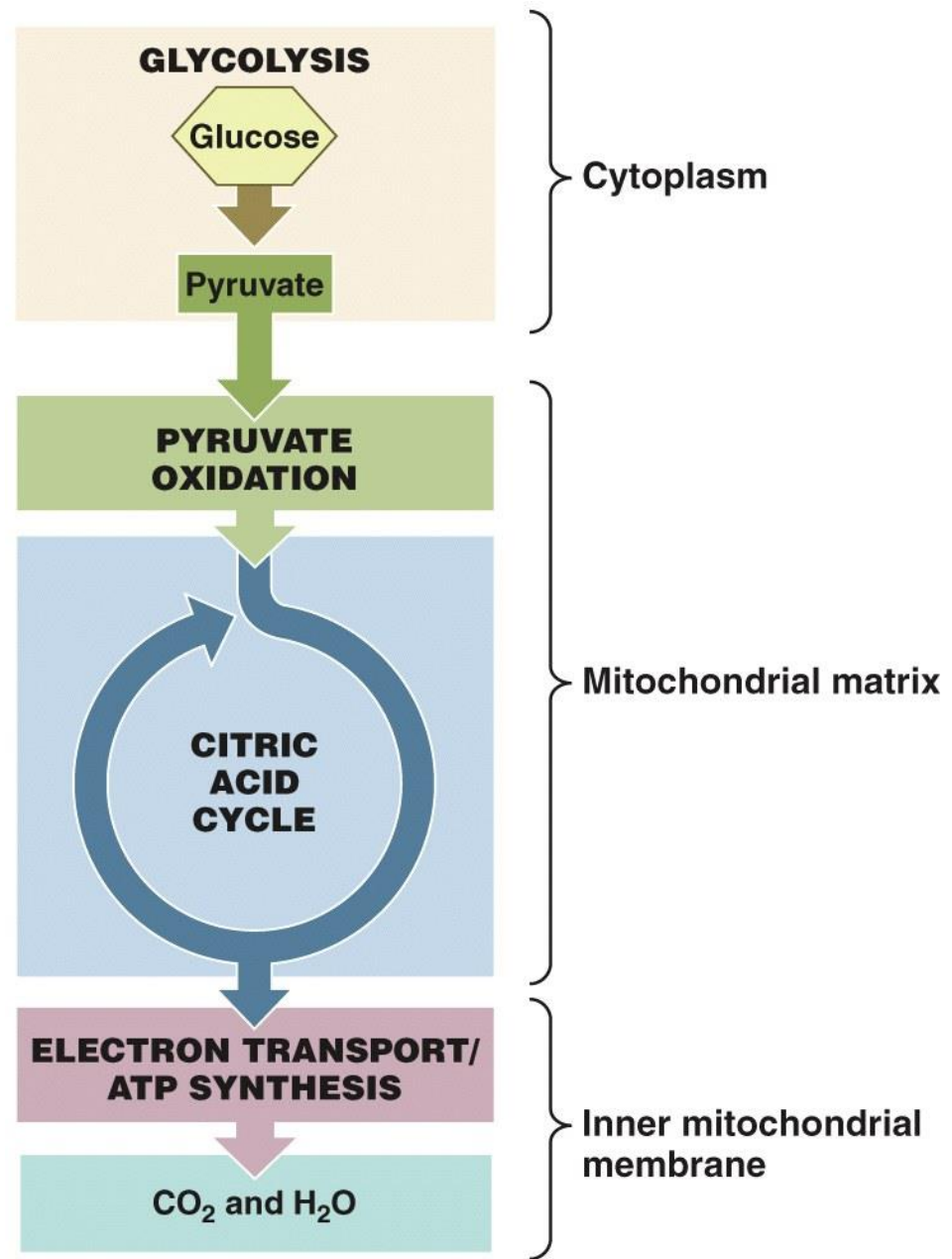


Figure 6.9 Energy-Releasing Metabolic Pathways



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Glycolysis: ten reactions.

Takes place in the cytosol.

Final products:

2 molecules of pyruvate (pyruvic acid)

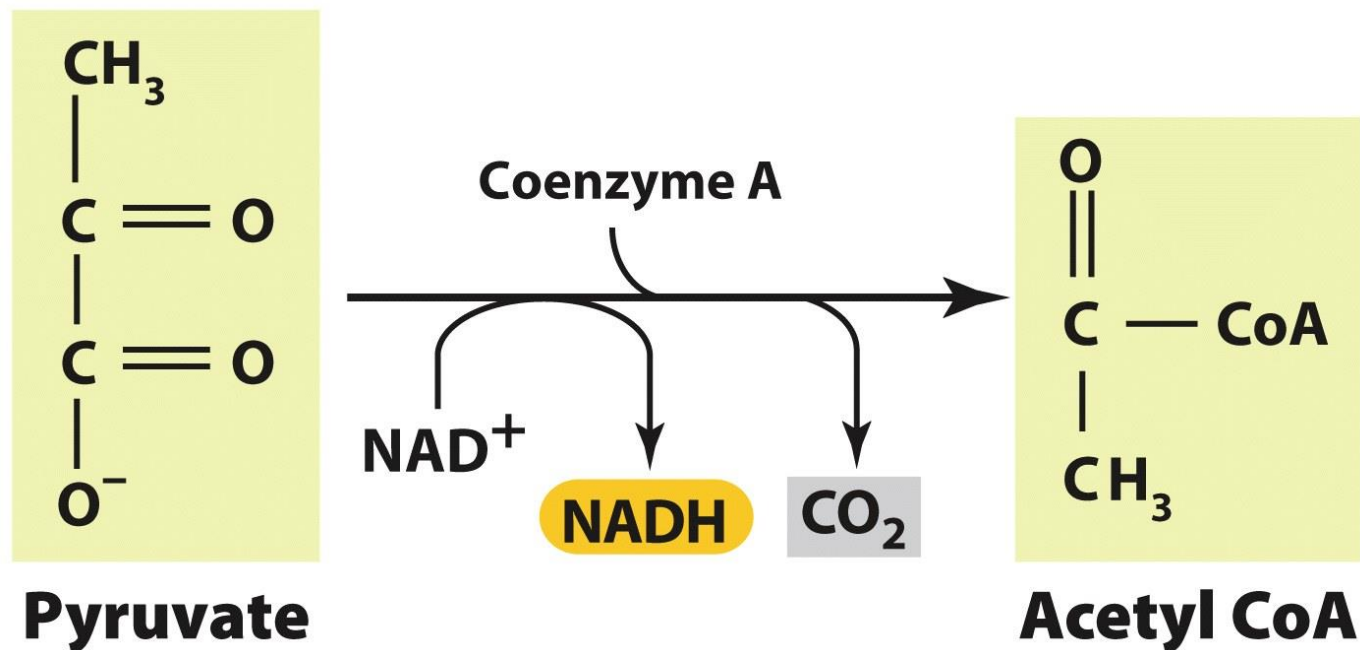
2 molecules of ATP

2 molecules of NADH

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Pyruvate Oxidation:

Products: CO_2 and acetate; acetate is then bound to **coenzyme A (CoA)**



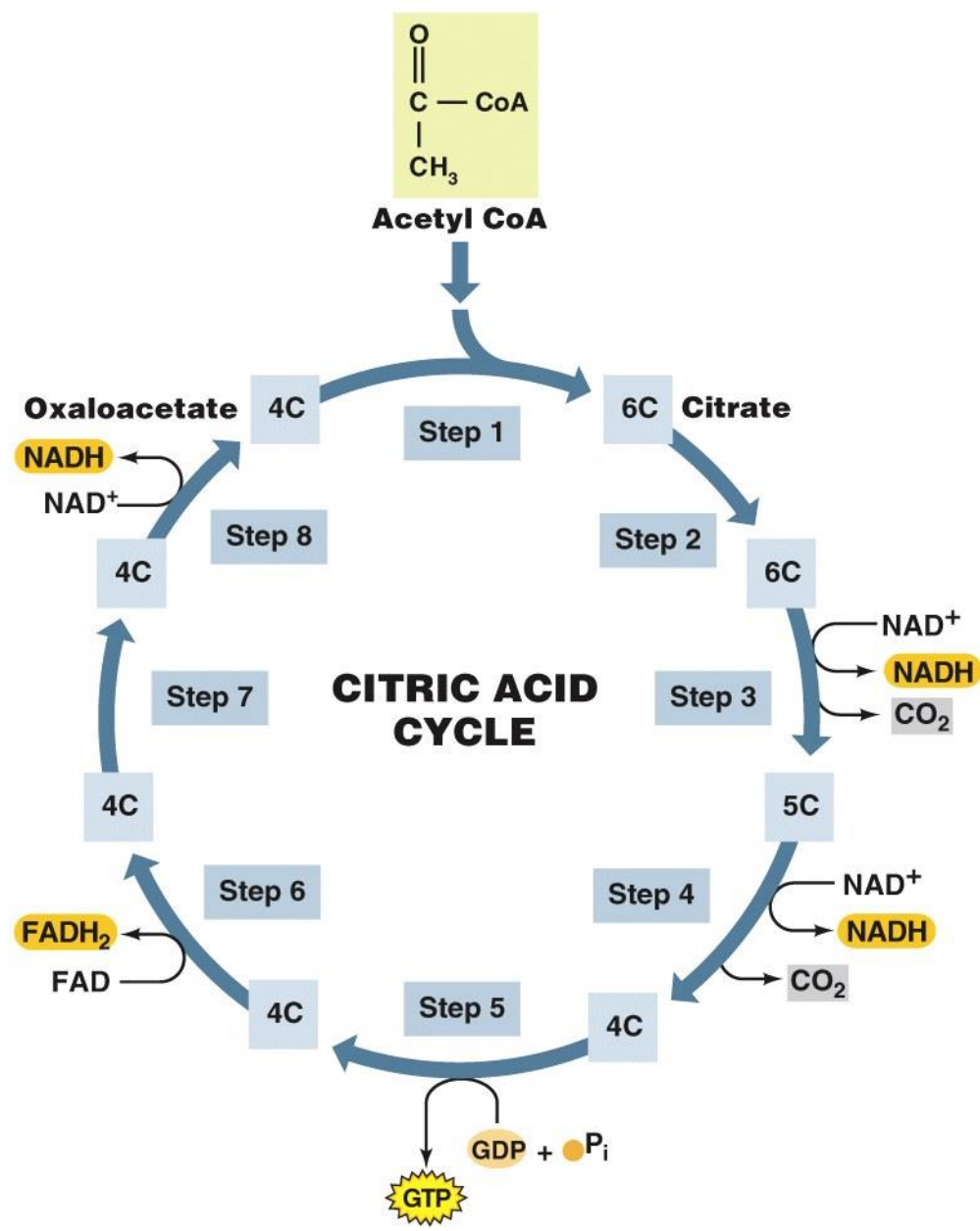
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Citric Acid Cycle: 8 reactions, operates twice for every glucose molecule that enters glycolysis.

Starts with Acetyl CoA; acetyl group is oxidized to two CO_2 .

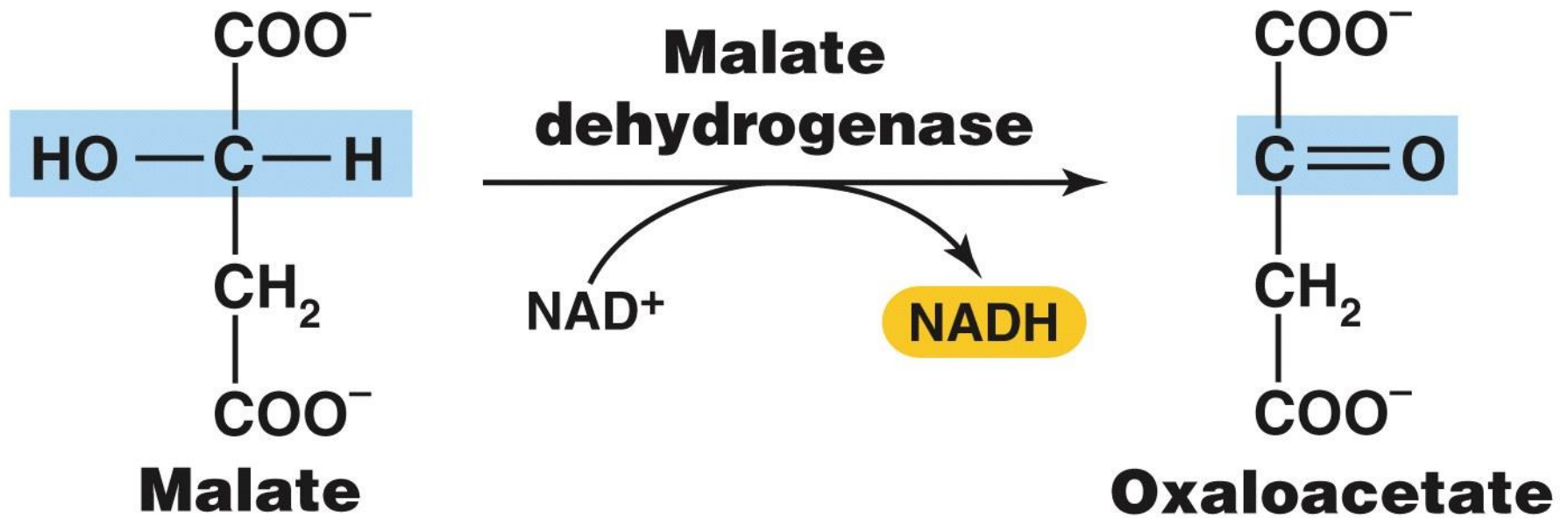
Oxaloacetate is regenerated in the last step.

Figure 6.11 The Citric Acid Cycle



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Final reaction of citric acid cycle:



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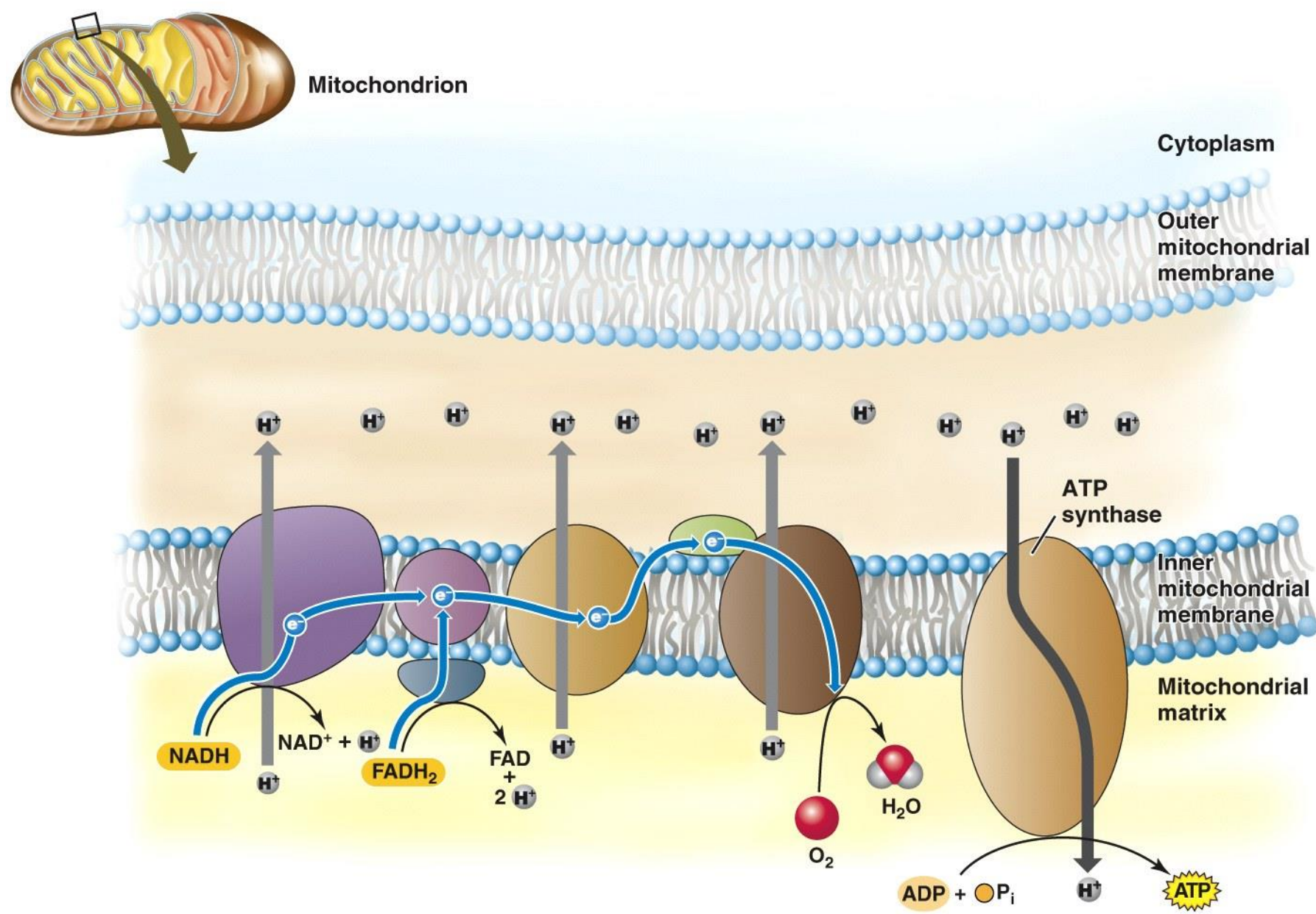
Electron transport/ATP Synthesis:

NADH is reoxidized to NAD^+ and O_2 is reduced to H_2O in a series of steps.

Respiratory chain—series of redox carrier proteins embedded in the inner mitochondrial membrane.

Electron transport—electrons from the oxidation of NADH and FADH_2 pass from one carrier to the next in the chain.

Figure 6.12 Electron Transport and ATP Synthesis in Mitochondria



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The oxidation reactions are exergonic; the energy is used to actively transport H^+ ions out of the mitochondrial matrix, setting up a proton gradient.

ATP synthase in the membrane uses the H^+ gradient to synthesize ATP by chemiosmosis.

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About 32 molecules of ATP are produced for each fully oxidized glucose.

The role of O_2 : most of the ATP produced is formed by oxidative phosphorylation, which is due to the reoxidation of NADH.