

Questions to Answer about your Potential Energy Diagram

1. What is the activation energy in your potential energy diagram?
2. Does this represent an exothermic or endothermic reaction?
3. How do you know if your reaction is exothermic or endothermic?
4. Is heat being absorbed or released in your diagram?
5. Could this diagram represent a hot pack or a cold pack? Which one is it more likely to represent and why?
6. Chemical cold packs are often used to reduce swelling after an athletic injury. Hot packs are often used to help warm you up in the cold. The diagram represents the potential energy change when EITHER a cold or hot pack is activated. Identify a reactant listed in Reference Table I that could be mixed with water for use in a chemical cold or hot pack for your particular potential energy diagram.

