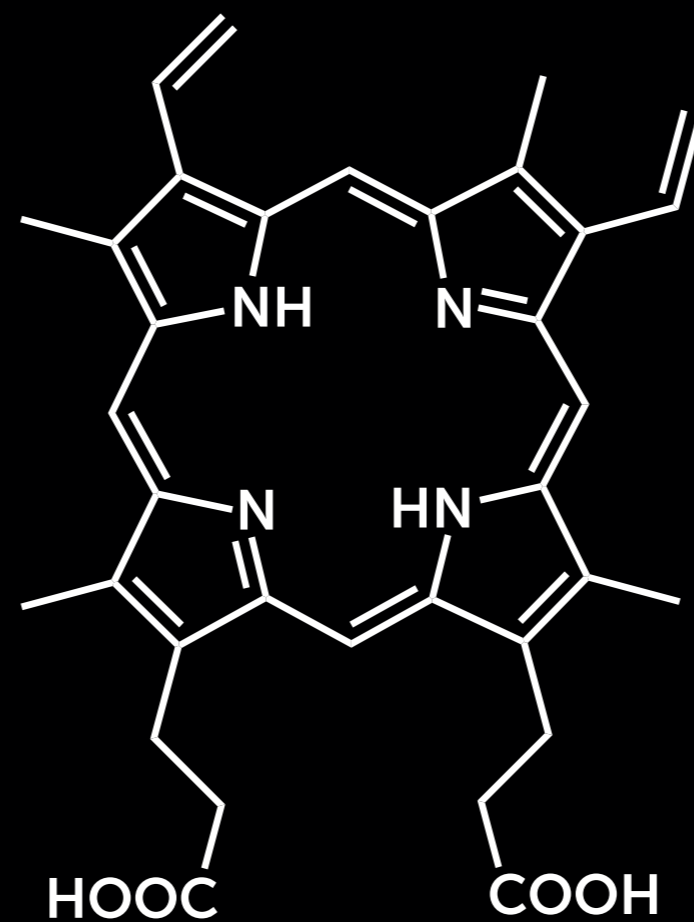
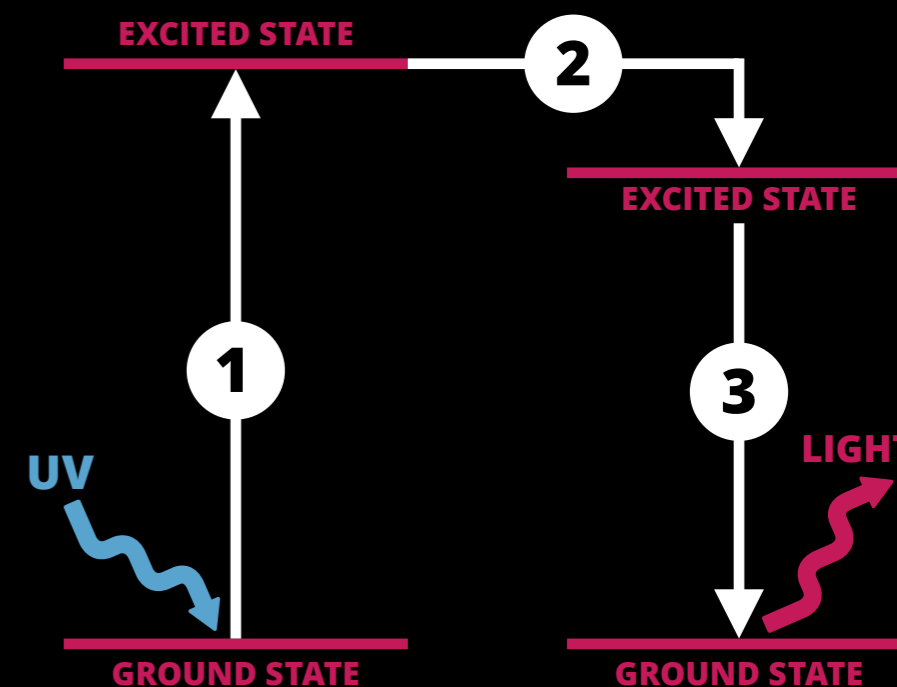


THE CHEMISTRY OF EGG FLUORESCENCE



PROTOPORPHYRIN IX



- 1** Molecule absorbs UV light
- 2** Loss of some energy (e.g. heat)
- 3** Energy released as visible light

When a UV light is shone on an egg shell it fluoresces bright red. This is due to the presence of protoporphyrin IX, which is a precursor of haemoglobin. It's also the compound which gives chicken eggs their brown colour.

