

35. The free-body diagram for the boy is shown below. \vec{N} is the normal force of the ice on him and m is his mass. The net inward force is $mg \cos \theta - N$ and, according to Newton's second law, this must be equal to mv^2/R , where v is the speed of the boy. At the point where the boy leaves the ice $N = 0$, so $g \cos \theta = v^2/R$. We wish to find his speed. If the gravitational potential energy is taken to be zero when he is at the top of the ice mound, then his potential energy at the time shown is $U = -mgR(1 - \cos \theta)$.

He starts from rest and his kinetic energy at the time shown is $\frac{1}{2}mv^2$. Thus conservation of energy gives $0 = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 - mgR(1 - \cos \theta)$, or $v^2 = 2gR(1 - \cos \theta)$. We substitute this expression into the equation developed from the second law to obtain $g \cos \theta = 2g(1 - \cos \theta)$. This gives $\cos \theta = 2/3$. The height of the boy above the bottom of the mound is $R \cos \theta = 2R/3$.

