

Ideas for a junior chess club



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There are
four sorts of card:

GAMES

A variation of chess – maybe one that will help you practise an important chess skill

EXERCISES

Practice for a chess skill

BOARDSIGHT

Chess uses a big board and it's hard to see how things join up – these tasks will help you get your eye in

ENDGAME

Target practice for finishing off a game

Here is a set of cards that you can have up your sleeve while running a chess club. Sometimes players get a bit bored playing the same old faces each week – so here are some ways to mix things up.

Draw a card for everyone to have a go at when they arrive, or draw one later for one or two players who are at a loose end.

The number of possible ideas is enormous, but these have been tried and tested.

I've left out perhaps some of the better-known ideas, like blitz chess, doing tactics puzzles, and crazy lightning. In the unlikely event that you haven't heard of these, you will find them on the Internet.

I don't think any of these ideas are completely original, but I don't know where they all came from. Credits are due to Gerry Quinn (Detective chess), Jeff Coakley (*Winning Chess Exercises*) Steven Addison (*100 other games to play on a chessboard*) David Pritchard (*The Encyclopedia of Chess Variants*) and Martin Gardner (*Mathematical Carnival*).

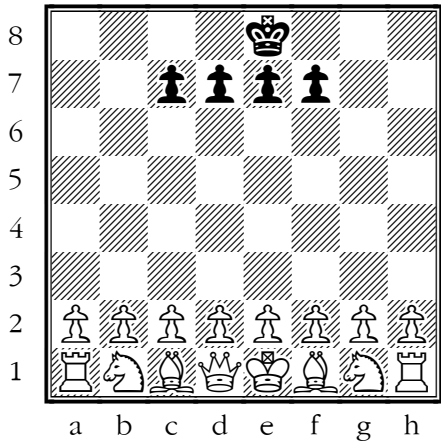
Suggestions and comments welcome – then soon there might be another set.

Dr Dave
Exeter 2009

P.S. Print them on card or onto labels; labels can be stuck to the A5 playing cards made by Stratus.

A
♠

GAME



♠ MONSTER CHESS

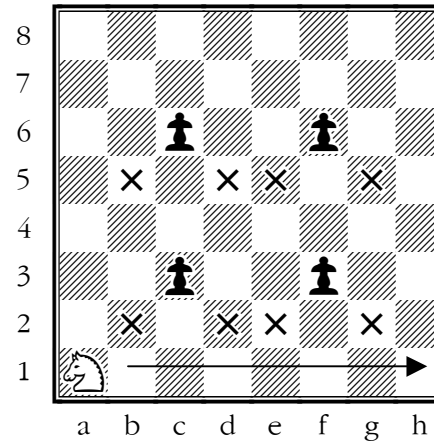
White has a full army, Black has only a King and four pawns **cdef...** but Black gets two moves at once. Black promotion is allowed!

A game:

1. **Nf3** **e5,e4**
2. **Nh4** **d5,d4**
3. **e3?** **dxe3,exf2+**
(4.Kxf2 is illegal: check from Pe4!)
4. **Ke2** **f5,f4#**

A
♣

EXERCISE



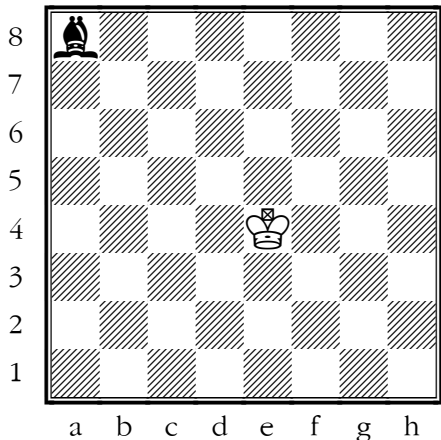
♣ KNIGHT'S DANCE

Visit every square on the chessboard with your Knight in order (a1-h1 then h2-a2,a3-h3...), EXCEPT those occupied by a black pawn or attacked by a black pawn. You must not take a pawn or let your Knight be attacked.

Start: Na1-c2-a3-b1-a3-c2-a1-b3-c1-d3-f2-d1-e3-c2-e1...

A
♥

BOARDSIGHT



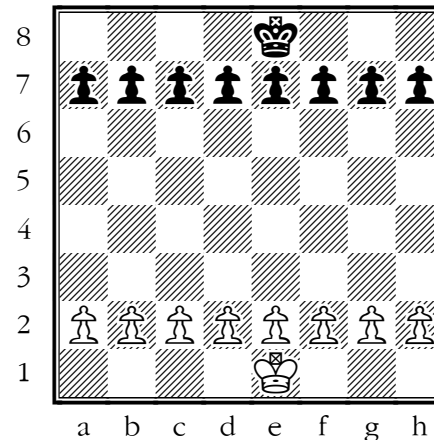
♥ CHECK COUNT ♔

From how many squares can the White King be checked?

I've found one...
(Jeff Coakley)

A
♦

ENDGAME



♦ PAWN'S GAME ♚

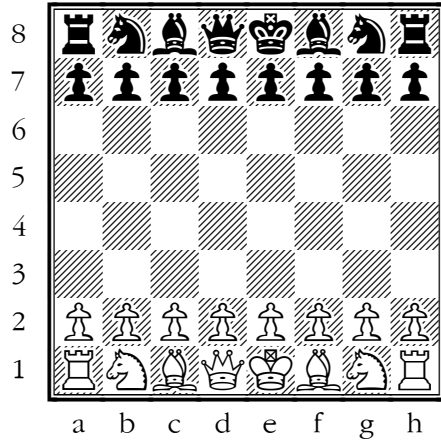
Normal rules, plus... You win the game if: a) You capture all of your opponent's pawns; b) you get any pawn to a queening square; c) your opponent has no legal moves, but you still have a legal move. The game is drawn if: a) you agree to a draw; b) neither side has a legal move (all pawns are blockaded).

(Alburt and Pelts via Duif)

2



GAME



REFUSAL CHESS

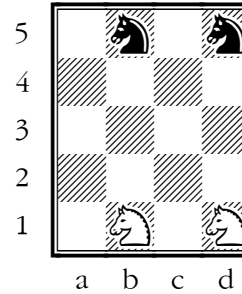
Each side is allowed to refuse the first move tried by the opponent at each turn.

So: 1.e4... No, Black declines, but White is allowed their second choice, **1.d4**. Black attempts 1...Nf6, but White declines, so Black plays **1...d5**, which is what Black wanted to play!

2



EXERCISE



KNIGHT'S SWAP

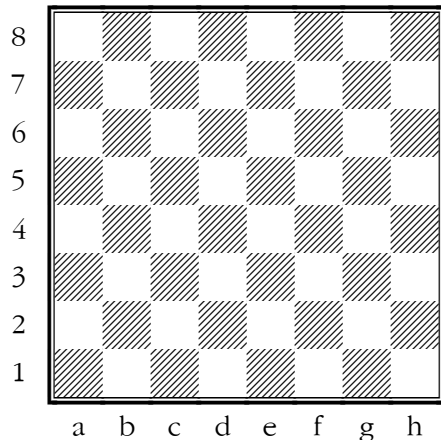
Swap the positions of the Knights! The Knights of each side are not allowed to take each other – in fact they are not even allowed to attack each other!

1. Nd2 Nb4
2. Nc4 Nc2
3. Na5 Na1
4. Nb2 Nc3
5. Nd3 Na2
6. Nc5 Nc1
7. Nc4 Na2
8. Na3 Nc3
9. Nd3 Nd1
10. Nb5 Nb3
11. Nb4 Nd2
12. Nd5 Nb1

2



BOARDSIGHT



EIGHT QUEENS



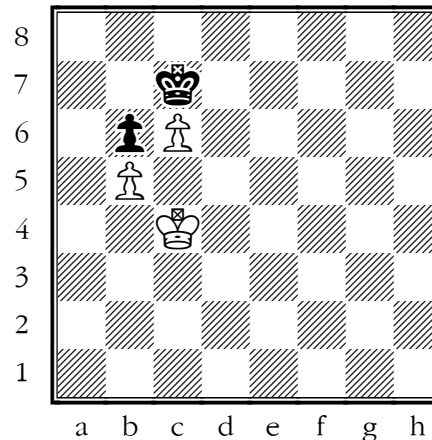
Place eight queens on a chessboard so no queen attacks or defends another (you can use 8 pawns to stand for Queens).

Try: a5 b8 c4 d1 e7 f2 g6 h3

2



ENDGAME



VIKING CHALLENGE

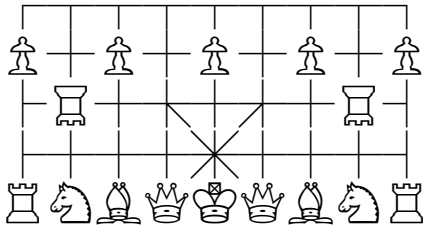
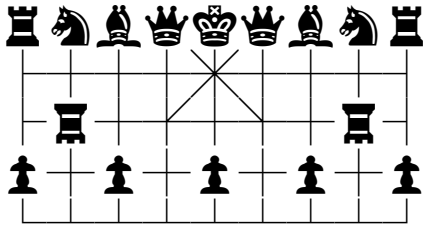
36 graded chess problems from Iceland. You get to see the answers, but you have to play out the position against Dave or Ray.

- White to move: 1.Kd5 Kc8 2.Kd6 Kd8 3.c7+ Kc8 4.Ke6 Kxc7 5.Ke7 Kc8 6.Kd6 Kb7 7.Kd7 Kb8 8.Kc6 Ka7 9.Kc7 Ka8 10.Kxb6 Kb8 11.Kc6 Kc8 12.b6 Kb8 13.b7 1-0

3



GAME



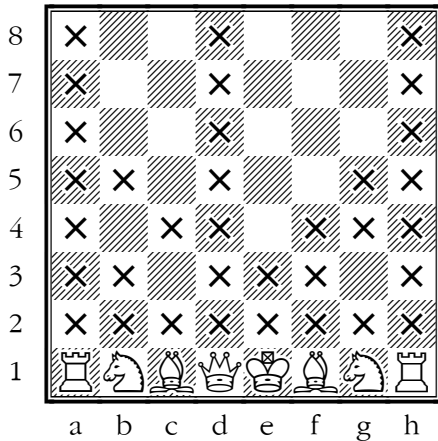
CHINESE CHESS xiang-chi

Chinese Chess has its own rules – so for chess experts only. The Rooks and Knights are similar to Western Chess, but the rest need some getting used to. Chinese chess is fast, tactical and depends on getting your rooks (chariots) and cannons (♘) into play along open lines. So that makes it a good exercise for those players who think rooks are mere paperweights (placed in the corners to stop the board rolling up, and where they must remain for the whole game)...

3



BOARDSIGHT



MAXIMUM ATTACKS



Place all the pieces from one side on the board so they attack as many squares as possible.

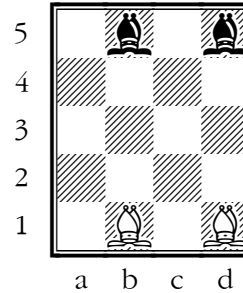
How many squares? (34 is easy!)

(Martin Gardner)

3



EXERCISE



BISHOP'S SWAP



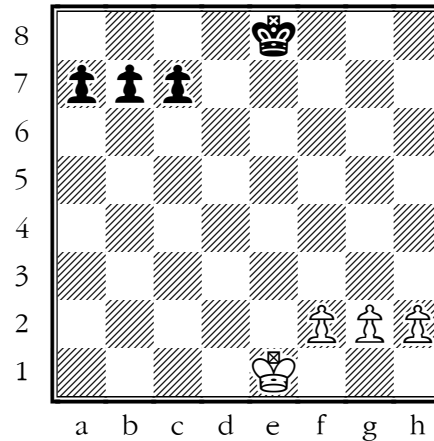
Swap the positions of the Bishops! The Bishops of each side are not allowed to take each other – in fact they are not even allowed to attack each other.

- 1. b1-c2 2. d5-a2 3. b5-c4 4. c2-a4 5. a2-b1 6. c4-d3 7. a4-b3 8. b3-d5 9. d3-b5 10. b1-d3 11. d1-b3 12. b3-a2 13. d3-c2 14. b5-a4 15. a2-c4 16. c2-b1 17. a4-d1 18. c4-b5

3



ENDGAME



STAUNTON'S GAME



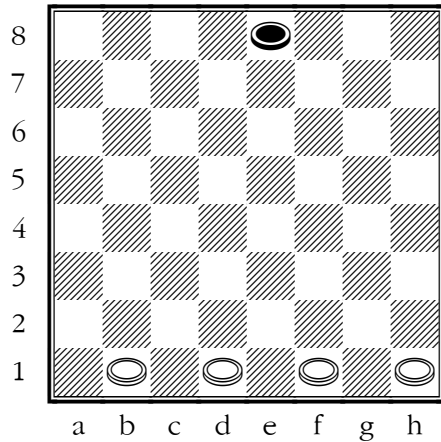
Normal chess rules...

Try it with Ruy Lopez Exchange Variation pawn structure i.e. White pawns on **a2,b2,c2,e4,f2,g2,h2**, Black pawns on **a6,b7,c7,c6,f7,g7,h7**. Swap sides in each game; White is better but can you win as White and draw as Black?

4



GAME



FOX AND GEESE

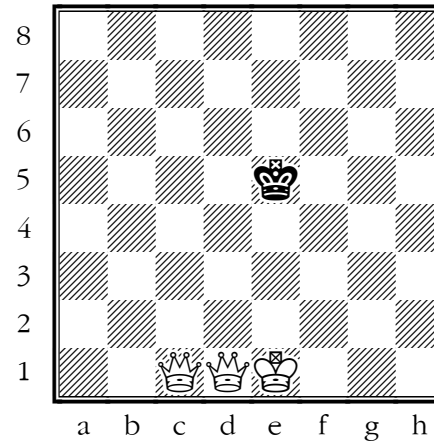


No captures. All pieces move one square diagonally at a time. The Black fox wins if it gets to the other side of the board. The White geese try to block and trap it!

4



EXERCISE



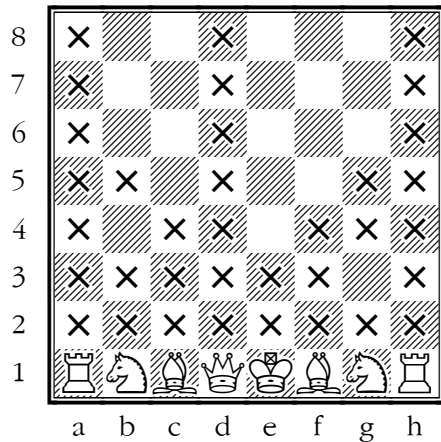
CHECKMATE RACE 1

Player 1 takes White ♔+♔♔ against Player 2 Black ♚e5 only. White moves first: how many White moves does it take for player 1 to mate? Start again, change sides. How many White moves this time?

4



BOARDSIGHT



MINIMUM ATTACKS



Place all the pieces from one side on the board so they attack as few squares as possible.

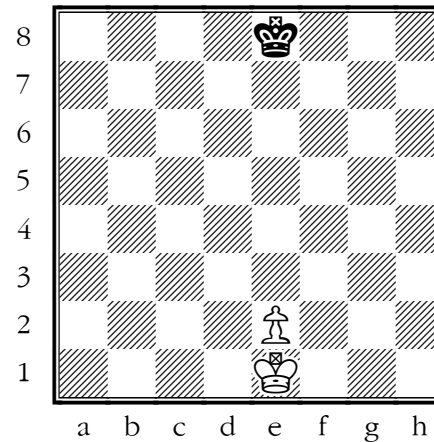
How many squares? You can do fewer than 34!

(Martin Gardner)

4



ENDGAME



KING'S JOUST



Normal chess rules...

Try with White to move first (should be a win!) and with Black (should be a draw!).

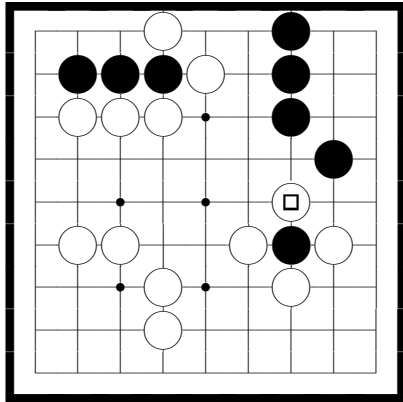
(David Beckwith)

Variations: try with f-pawn, g-pawn, h-pawn... try with 2 pawns vs. one, 2 vs. 2 symmetrical...

5



GAME



The hardest game in the world? Capture empty territory, by placing 'stones' on the 81 corners of the squares. Use a bag of 150 coins/counters. Capture stones that can't breathe, by surrounding them. White plays the marked stone and the lone black stone dies and is removed; the black group top left also doomed.

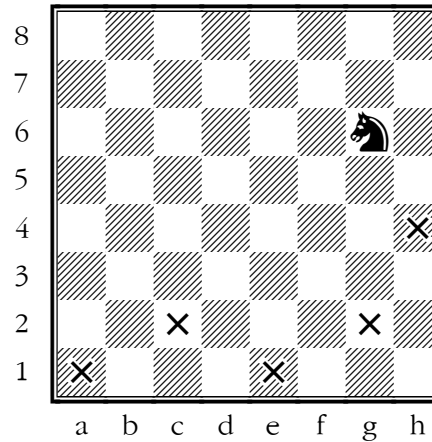


GO

5



EXERCISE



KNIGHT'S TOUR

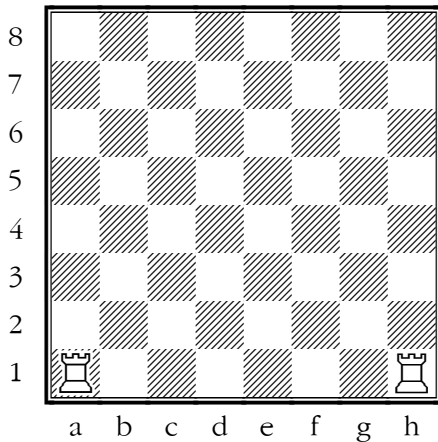
Visit every square on the board just once with a Knight.

The computer can keep track for you!

5



BOARDSIGHT



HELPING HANDS

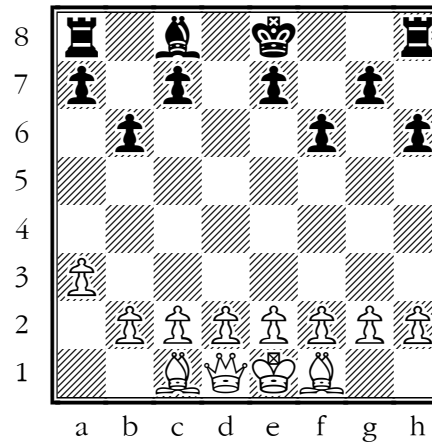


Place all the pieces from one side on the board so they are all defended exactly once and each piece defends exactly one other piece.

5



ENDGAME



RETRO

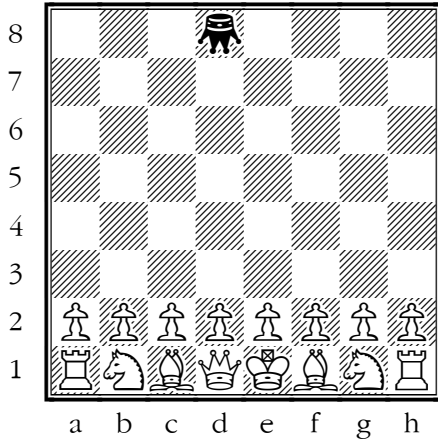
Black to move... can Black castle?

(Raymond Smullyan)

6



GAME



THE MAHARAJAH AND THE SIKHS

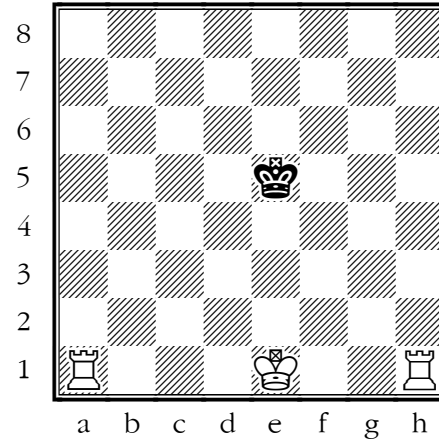


The Black Queen is an Amazon, who can move like a Queen and like a Knight (and can checkmate all by herself). No promotion. White must learn to keep pieces safe and use all their pieces together!

6



EXERCISE



CHECKMATE RACE 2

Player 1 takes White ♔+♖♗ against Player 2 Black ♚e5 only. White moves first: how many White moves does it take for player 1 to mate? Start again, change sides. How many White moves this time?

6



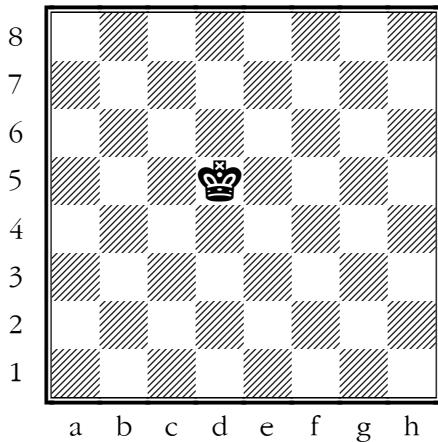
BOARDSIGHT

LONELY



Place all the pieces from one side on the board so none are defended.

How many more pieces can you add?



6



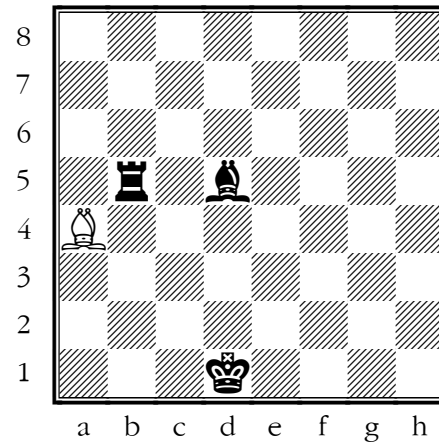
ENDGAME

MISSING



Where is the White King?

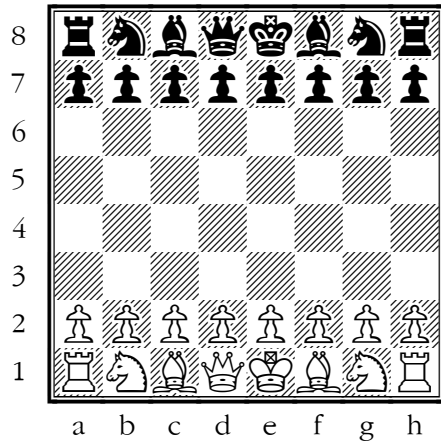
(Smullyan)



7



GAME



CHECKLESS CHESS

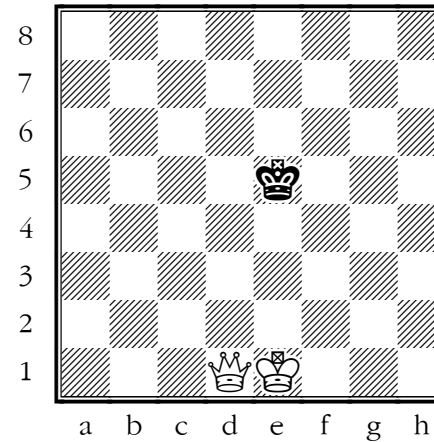


Normal chess, but you are not allowed to check your opponent until it's checkmate!

7



EXERCISE



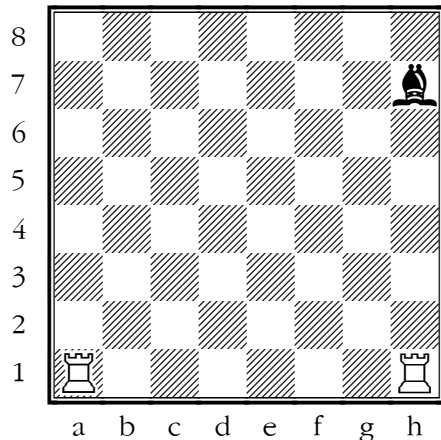
CHECKMATE RACE 3

Player 1 takes White ♔+♚ against Player 2 Black ♚e5 only. White moves first: how many White moves does it take for player 1 to mate? Start again, change sides. How many White moves this time?

7



BOARDSIGHT



ATTACK AND DEFENCE

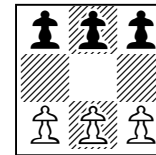


Place all the White pieces on the board so they are defended exactly once and not attacked, and add all the Black pieces so that they are all attacked and none are defended.

7



ENDGAME



HEXAPAWN

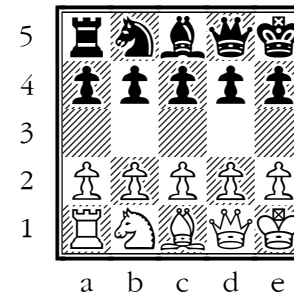


Noughts and crosses for chess players!

You win if:

1. your opponent cannot move
2. you capture all your opponent's pawns
3. you get a pawn to the other side of the board.

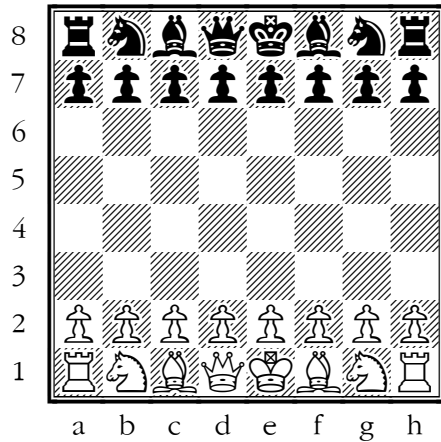
Too easy? Try Minichess!



8



GAME



♔ CHECK CHESS ♚

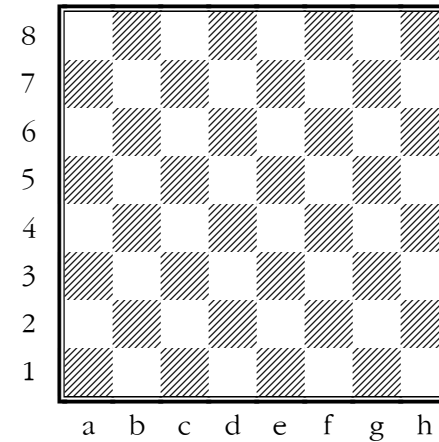
The first check wins! Very exciting: this should stop you playing safety-first...

Actually, there's a bust to this game, found by Frank Marshall... So, a better game is two-check chess: if you play two checks you win. Or three... Apparently Karpov was very good at three-check chess.

8



EXERCISE



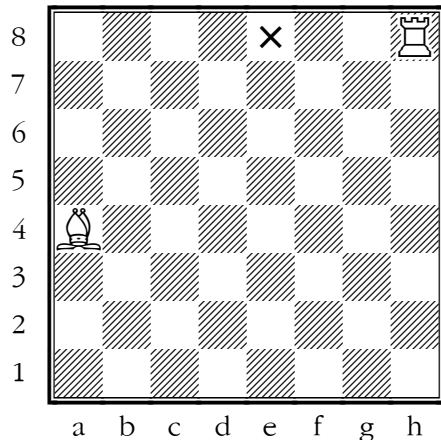
CHECKMATE RACE 4

Player 1 takes White ♔+♖ against Player 2 Black ♚e5 only. White moves first: how many White moves does it take for player 1 to mate? Start again, change sides. How many White moves this time?

8



BOARDSIGHT



TEAMWORK



Place a Rook and a Bishop so they attack the most squares together. I've managed one square – can you do better?

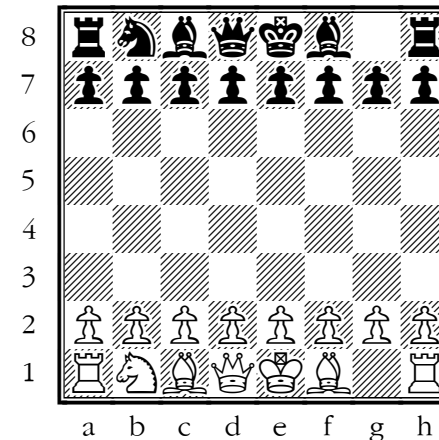
How about...
...A Rook and a Knight?
...A Queen and a Rook?
...A Queen and a Knight?
...A Queen and a Bishop?

(Jeff Coakley)

8



ENDGAME



MURDER SCENE



(a) White has just played their fifth move: what moves were played?
(b) Move the Pawn from d7 to d5. What's the shortest game now?
(c) Leave the Pawn on d5 and remove all the Knights. What's the shortest game now?

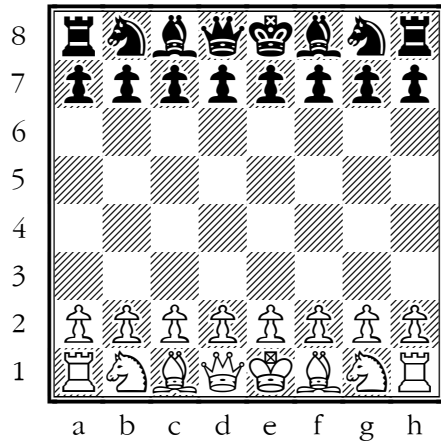
(Martin Gardner)

- a 1.Nf3 Nf6 2.Nd4 Ne4 3.Nb5 Nc3 4.Na3 Nxb1 5.Nxb1
- b 1.Nf3 d5 2.Nd4 Nf6 3.Nc6 Nfd7 4.Nxb8 Nxb8
- c 1.Nf3 Nf6 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nd4 Nd5 4.Nxc6 dxc6 5.Nxd5 cxd5

9



GAME



♙ LOSING CHESS ♜

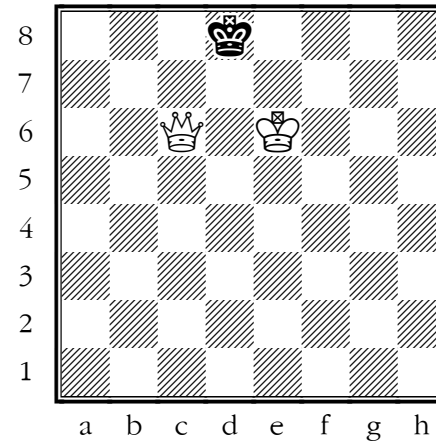
First one to give away all their pieces, wins. If you can take a piece, you must. A King can be taken like any other piece. Stalemate wins!

Players need to spot attacks and plan sequences, both good chess skills!

9



EXERCISE



♙ STALEMATE ♜

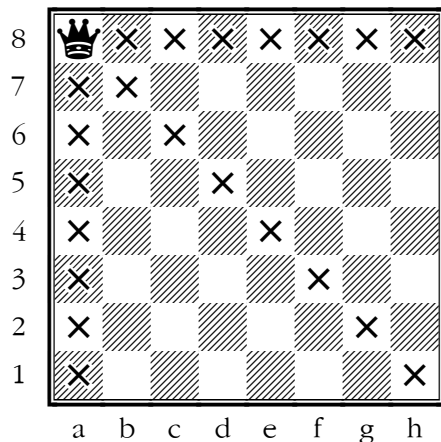
Arrange all the pieces from both sides on the board so that one side is in stalemate (or both!).

Sam Loyd could arrange this in 12 moves from the start position! [1.d4 e5 2.Qd2 e4 3.Qf4 f5 4.h3 Bb4+ 5.Nd2 d6 6.Qh2 Be6 7.a4 Qh4 8.Ra3 c5 9.Rg3 f4 10.f3 Bb3 11.d5 Ba5 12.c4 e3 1/2-1/2]

9



BOARDSIGHT



FIVE QUEENS



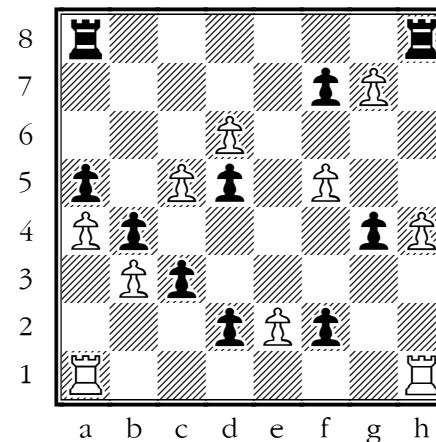
Arrange five queens on the board so that every single square is attacked.

How many Knights does it take to do the same thing?

9



ENDGAME



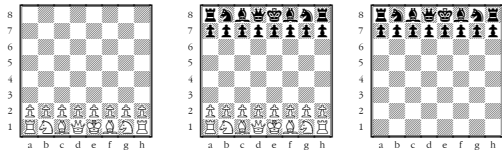
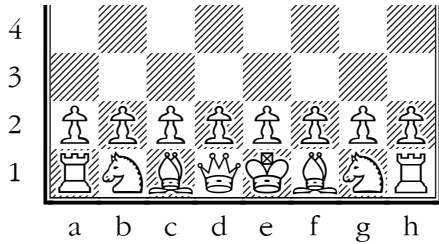
♖ ROOK CHASE ♜

Place the rooks on the proper squares. Place your pawns at random anywhere on the board (be careful not to blockade your own rooks!). Pawns are asleep and cannot move. Object is to take turns capturing pawns. First player to capture all opposing pawns wins.

10



GAME



You

Umpire

Opponent

KRIEGSPIEL

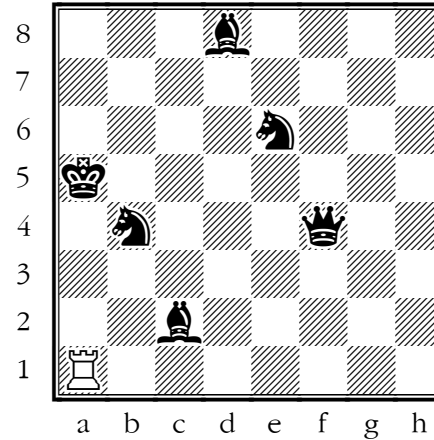
You can see your pieces but not your opponent's (like Battleships...). You need three boards, two sets, one umpire, no peeking! White moves, and Black is told: "White has moved"(!) If it's not legal, the umpire says 'No'. If White accidentally takes a piece, the umpire announces "White has taken a piece on e4". If it's check, the umpire says so ("White is in check along a diagonal"). The umpire will tell you if there are any pawn captures to try.

The best way to play is to attack with a group of pieces that all defend each other. (Next time you play a chess game, try and do just that!)

10



EXERCISE



MINEFIELD



Only White moves.

Take all the black pieces without ever being attacked.

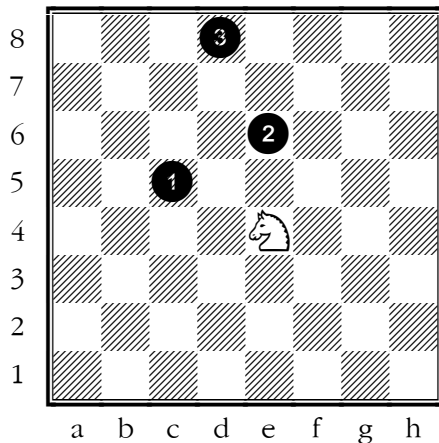
What's the fewest number of moves you can do it in?

Chess Mazes can be found in a chess programme by Alex Bartashnikov and a book by Bruce Alberson.

10



BOARDSIGHT



HOPPING

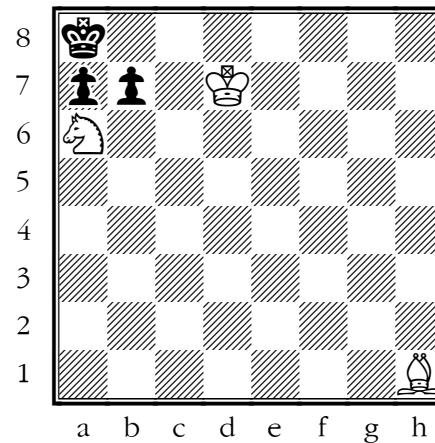
How many squares are there which the Knight will take more than three moves to hop to?

(Jeff Coakley)

10



ENDGAME



REVERSAL



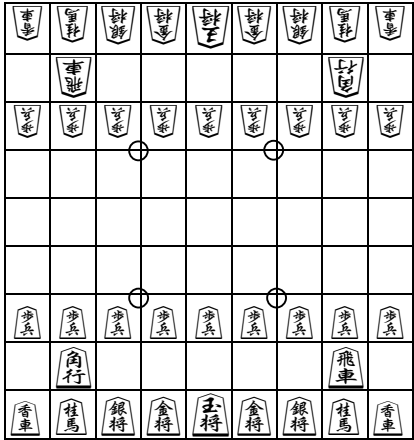
No tricks -- mate in three.

Now turn the board around: it's another mate in three (at most).



GAME

JAPANESE CHESS



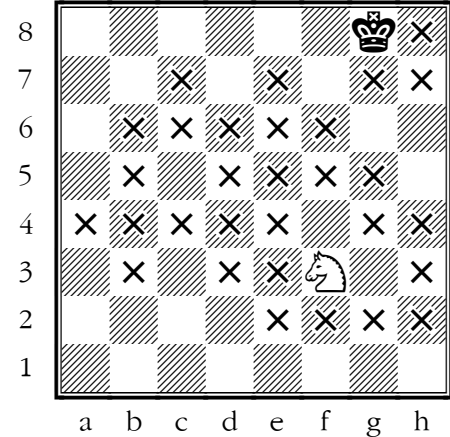
Do you like to play Exchange Chess? The Japanese game of chess has the same idea of recycling pieces – you just turn them around!

The pieces nearly all move differently to those in Western chess – so this game is for chess experts only. It's slow to start, and most of the pieces move only one square at a time, so you do have to use all your pieces to attack. So, it's good treatment for players who like to attack with only their queen...

You can just about play this game on the corners of the squares of a normal chess board. I've a set of counters for playing Mad Chess (one-board exchange chess).



EXERCISE



KNIGHT MAZE

Only the White Knight moves.

The task is to play a check, without stepping on a marked square! (use 30 counters or coins)

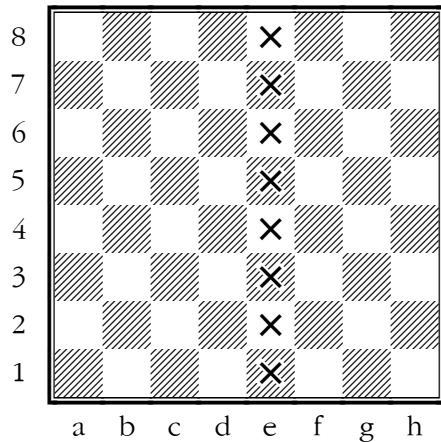
(Dan Heisman, Jim Mitch)

Try Nf3-d2-f1-g3-h5-f4-g6-f8-d7-b8-a6-c5-b7-d8-f7-h6+!



BOARDSIGHT

FILE COVER



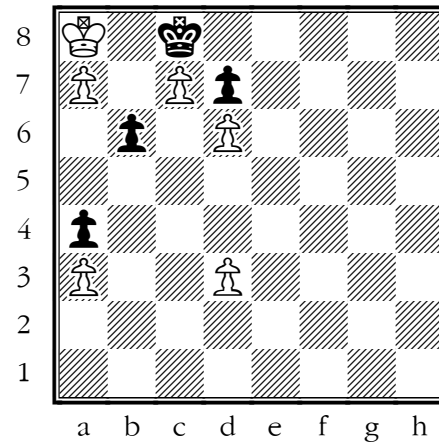
How many minor pieces does it take to attack every square on a file?

(Jeff Coakley)



ENDGAME

FORFEIT

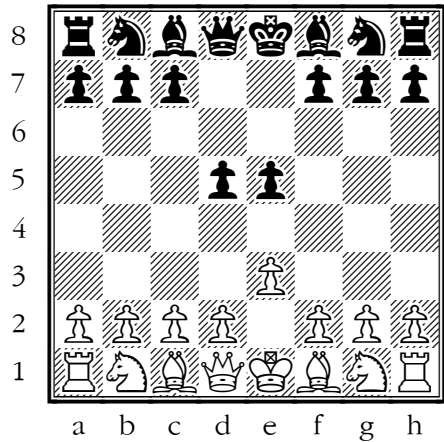


White to move and mate in 6.

If you fail to solve this one I will send you home from the club...



GAME



MARSEILLAIS CHESS

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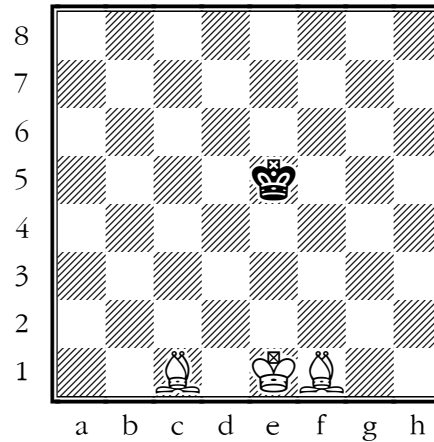
Each side gets two moves at once!

Or, White plays first as normal. Then each side gets two moves; two Black, two White, two Black...

It's good for thinking up threats!



EXERCISE

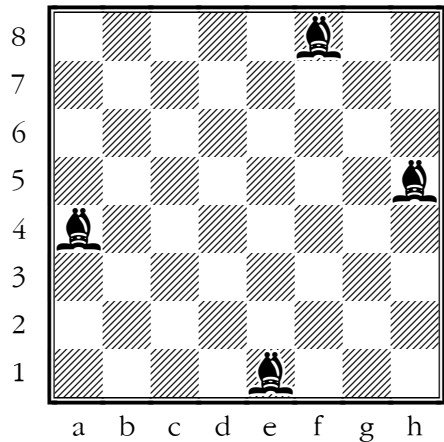


CHECKMATE RACE 5

Player 1 takes White ♔+♘♙ against Player 2 Black ♚e5 only. White moves first: how many White moves does it take for player 1 to mate? Start again, change sides. How many White moves this time?



BOARDSIGHT



BISHOP CROWD



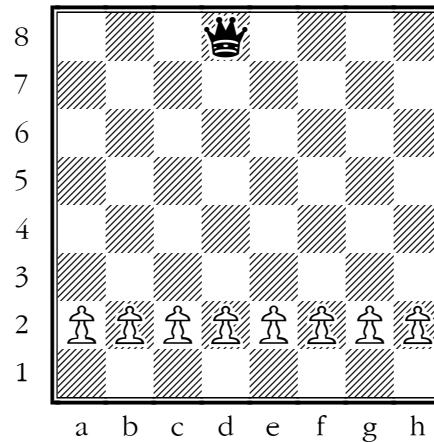
What's the most bishops you can get on a board so that no bishop attacks or defends another?

(Steven Addison)

I can manage 14... How about Knights?



ENDGAME



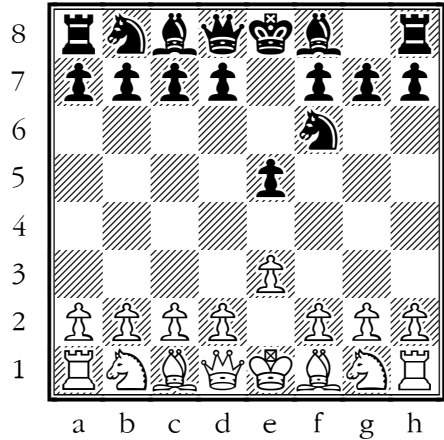
TOM AND JERRY



White wins if a mouse gets to the end; if not, Black wins!

K
♠

GAME



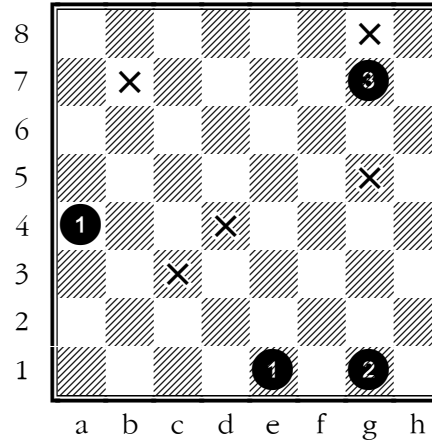
PROGRESSIVE CHESS

White plays 1 move, Black plays 2 moves, White plays 3, Black plays 4... You should be able to checkmate before you get to 10! Good for planning chains of moves.

White to move: mate in one set of 3 moves!

K
♣

EXERCISE



DETECTIVE CHESS



Place one of each White piece on the board on the marked squares.

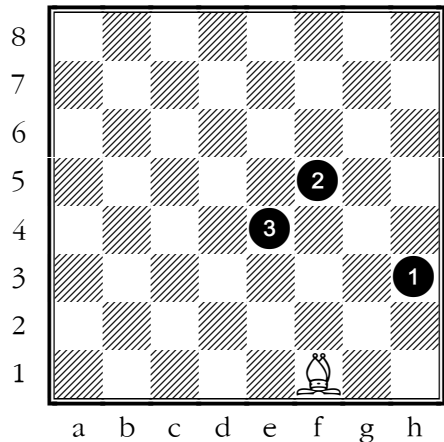
The numbers show the number of times each square is attacked.

The computer has lots more of these!

(Gerry Quinn)

K
♥

BOARDSIGHT



SLALOM

How many ways can the Bishop reach e4 in three moves? I've found one!

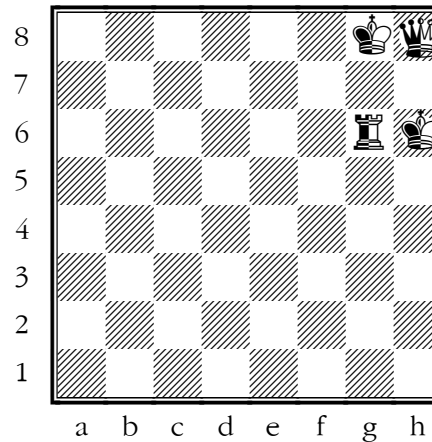
What about a King on f1?

How many ways can a Queen on f1 get to e4 in two moves?

(Jeff Coakley)

K
♦

ENDGAME



COLOUR QUIZ

Which colours are the pieces?

What was the last move?