Chess is a [board game](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Board_game) between two [players](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Player_(game)). It is sometimes called Western chess or international chess to distinguish it from [related games](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chess_variant), such as [xiangqi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xiangqi) (Chinese chess) and [shogi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shogi) (Japanese chess). The current form of the game [emerged](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_chess) in Spain and the rest of [Southern Europe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Europe) during the second half of the 15th century after evolving from [chaturanga](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chaturanga), a similar but much older game of [Indian origin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_India). Today, chess is one of the world's most popular games, played by millions of people worldwide.

Chess is an [abstract strategy game](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abstract_strategy_game) and involves [no hidden information](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perfect_information). It is played on a [chessboard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chessboard) with 64 squares arranged in an eight-by-eight grid. At the start, each player controls sixteen [pieces](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chess_piece): one [king](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_(chess)), one [queen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_(chess)), two [rooks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rook_(chess)), two [bishops](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bishop_(chess)), two [knights](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knight_(chess)), and eight [pawns](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pawn_(chess)). The player who moves first controls [white pieces](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_and_Black_in_chess), and the other controls black pieces. The object of the game is to [checkmate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Checkmate) the opponent's king, whereby the king is under immediate attack (in "[check](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Check_(chess))") and there is no way for it to escape. There are also several ways a game can end in a [draw](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Draw_(chess)).

Organized chess arose in the 19th century. Chess competition today is governed internationally by [FIDE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIDE) (International Chess Federation). The first universally recognized [World Chess Champion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Chess_Champion), [Wilhelm Steinitz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilhelm_Steinitz), claimed his title in 1886; [Magnus Carlsen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnus_Carlsen) is the current World Champion. A huge body of [chess theory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chess_theory) has developed since the game's inception. Aspects of [art](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Art) are found in [chess composition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chess_composition), and chess in its turn influenced [Western culture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_culture) and art, and has connections with other fields such as [mathematics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematics), [computer science](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_science), and [psychology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychology).

One of the goals of early [computer scientists](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_scientists) was to create a [chess-playing machine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chess-playing_machine). In 1997, [Deep Blue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deep_Blue_(chess_computer)) became the first computer to beat the reigning World Champion in [a match](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deep_Blue_versus_Garry_Kasparov) when it defeated [Garry Kasparov](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garry_Kasparov). Today's [chess engines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chess_engine) are significantly stronger than the best human players and have deeply influenced the development of chess theory.

The rules of chess are published by [FIDE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIDE) (Fédération Internationale des Échecs), chess's international governing body, in its *Handbook*.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chess#cite_note-FideLawsOfChess-1) Rules published by national governing bodies, or by unaffiliated chess organizations, commercial publishers, etc., may differ in some details. FIDE's rules were most recently revised in 2018.

[Chess pieces](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chess_piece) are divided into two different colored sets. While the sets may not be literally white and black (e.g. the light set may be a yellowish or off-white color, the dark set may be brown or red), they are always referred to as ["white" and "black"](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_and_Black_in_chess). The players of the sets are referred to as White and Black, respectively. Each set consists of 16 pieces: one king, one queen, two rooks, two bishops, two knights, and eight pawns. [Chess sets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chess_set) come in a wide variety of styles; for competition, the [Staunton pattern](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Staunton_chess_set) is preferred.