

20. Excelsior

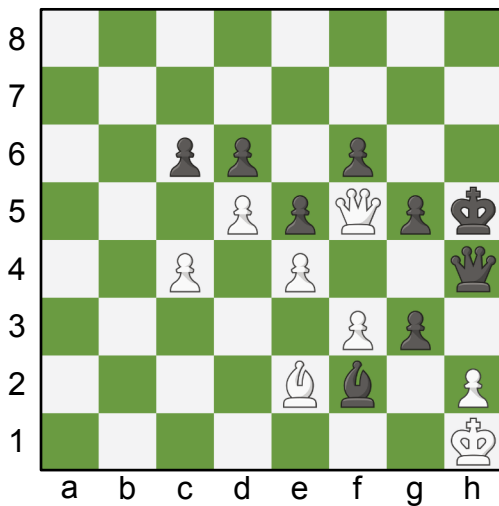
The excelsior puzzle was composed by Sam Loyd in response to a friend stating that he could always find the piece which delivered the checkmate of a chess problem. Loyd made a puzzle where the least likely piece carries out the checkmate.

It's white to play and mate in 5. Good luck!

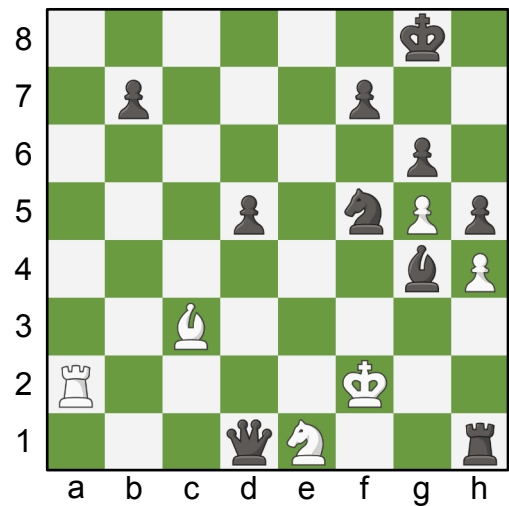


Challenge Puzzles

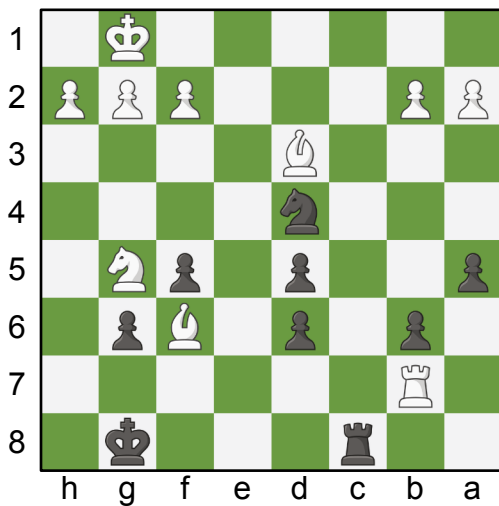
① White to play - mate in 2.



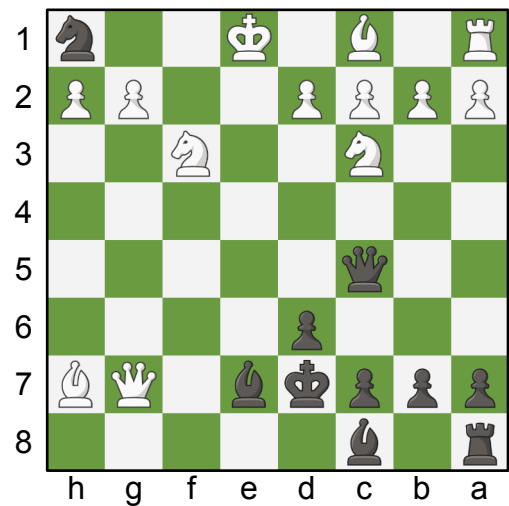
② White to play - mate in 2.



③ Black to play - mate in 3.



④ Black to play - mate in 3.



Hints.

- ① Use the queen.
- ② Start with the rook.
- ③ Start with the rook.
- ④ Start with the queen.

Answers.

- ① 1. ♔h7#
- ② 1. ♖a8+ ♔h7 2. ♖h8#
- ③ 1.... ♜c1+ 2. ♙f1 ♞e2+ 3. ♔h1 ♜xf1#
- ④ 1.... ♚f2+ 2. ♔d1 ♚f1+ 3. ♞e1 ♞f2#

