

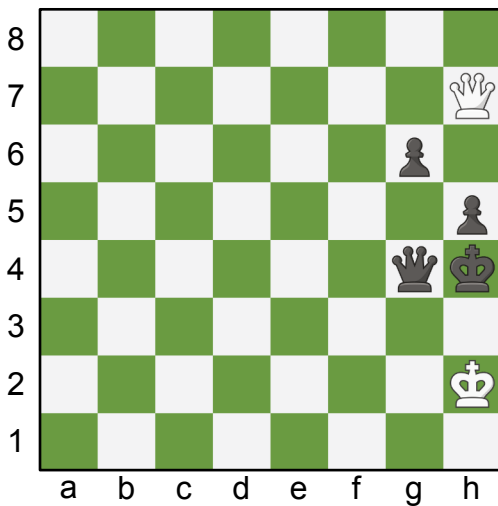
38. Duck Chess

Duck Chess is a fun chess variant where a rubber duck becomes a blocker! Players make a move, then place the duck on any empty square. The duck prevents pieces from moving through or landing on that square. The goal is still to checkmate the opponent's king, but there's no check or checkmate in the traditional sense—you win by capturing your opponent's king. The duck cannot be captured or moved by the opponent, so it constantly shifts the dynamics of the game!

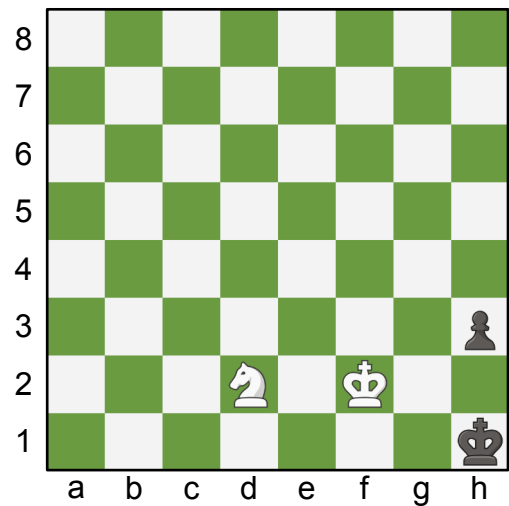


Challenge Puzzles

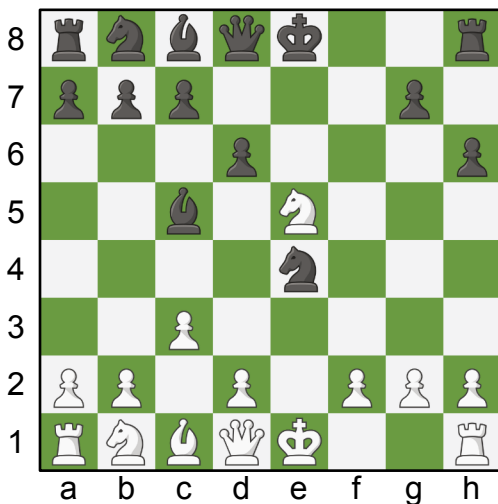
① White to play - Find best move.



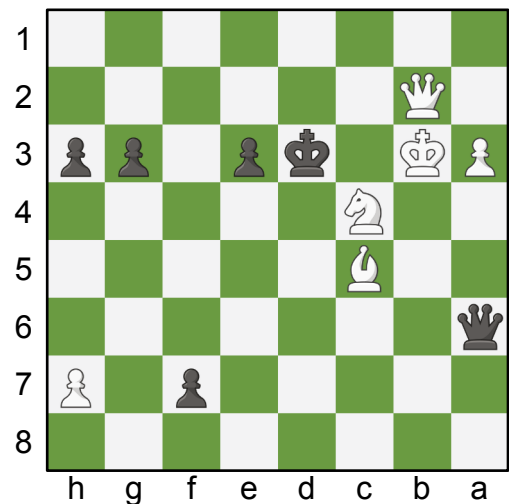
② White to play - Find best move.



③ White to play - Find best move.



④ Black to play - Find best move.



Hints.

- ① Start with the queen.
- ② Start with the knight.
- ③ Start with the queen.
- ④ Start with the queen.

Answers.

- ① 1. ♔e7+ ♚g5 2. ♔e4+ ♚g4 3. ♔e3 Zugzwang! Now, white must give up the queen to prevent a checkmate.
- ② 1. ♞f1 ♟h2 2. ♞g3#
- ③ 1. ♔h5+ ♟g6 2. ♔xg6+ ♚e7 3. ♔f7#
- ④ 1. ... ♔xf5#

