

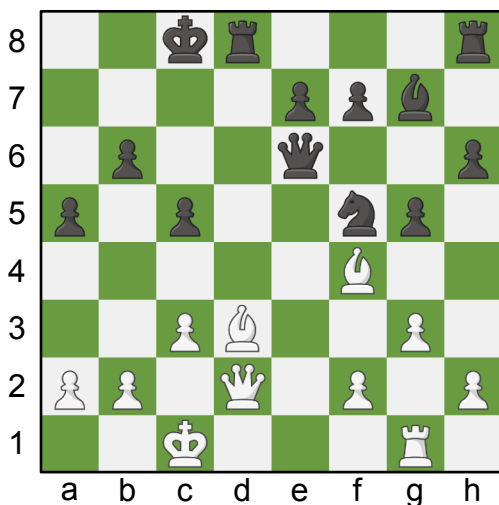
## 6. Phases of the Game

A typical chess game can be divided into three parts, each with its own character and priorities.

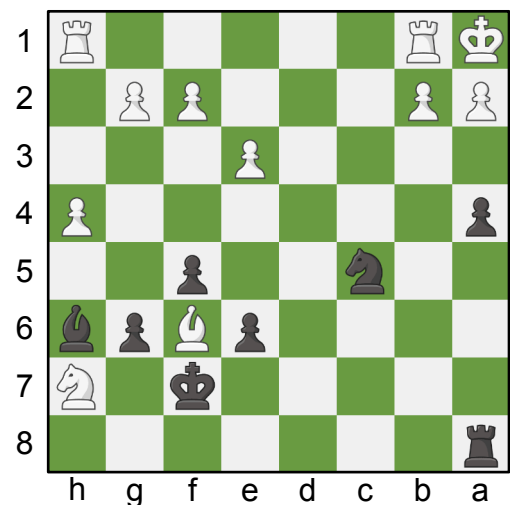
- The opening: players develop the pieces from their starting squares and try to control the center;
- The middlegame: plans are conceived and carried out;
- The endgame: after several exchanges and captures, the player with the superior chances tries to convert an advantage into victory.

### Challenge Puzzles

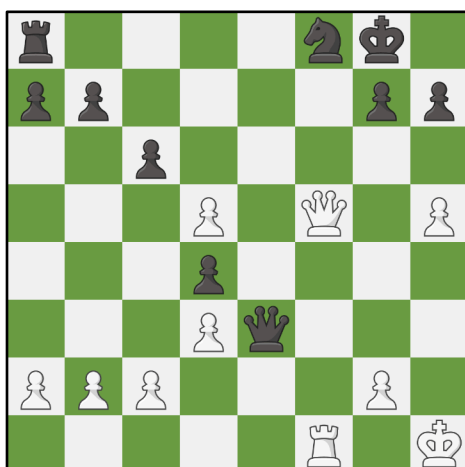
① White to play - mate in 1.



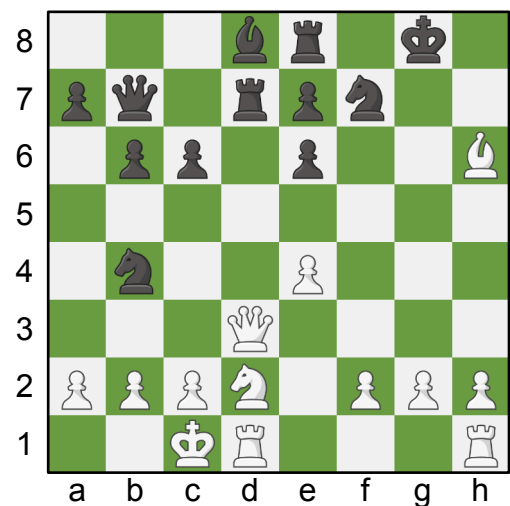
② Black to play - mate in 2.



③ White to play - mate in 3.



④ White to play - mate in 3.



Hints.

- ① Only one piece can check the king.
- ② Start with the knight.
- ③ Chase the king back.
- ④ Start with the queen.

Answers.

- ① 1. ♖a6 # 1-0
- ② 1. ... ♞b3+ 2. ♗axb3 ♜axb3 # 0-1
- ③ 1. ♔f7+ ♚h8 23. ♔xf8+ ♜xf8 24. ♜xf8# 1-0
- ④ 1. ♔g3+ ♞g5 2. ♔xg5+ Then regardless of black's reply, we have mate on 3. ♔g7 # 1-0

