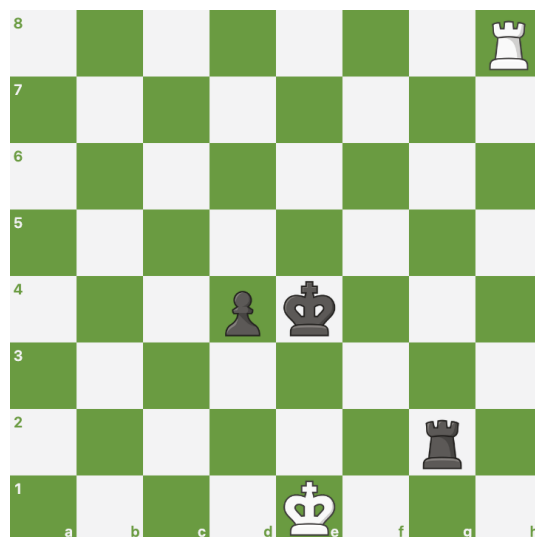


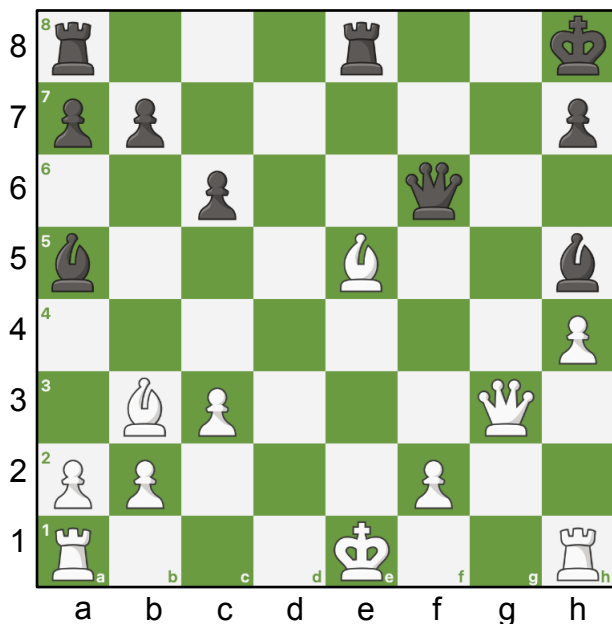
80. The Philidor Position

The Philidor Position is a critical rook-and-pawn endgame technique that allows the defending side to secure a draw despite being a pawn down. Named after 18th-century chess master François-André Philidor, this simple requires placing your king on the enemy pawn's promotion square while positioning your rook on the third rank to cut off the opposing king. This simple but precise method guarantees a draw against any opponent.

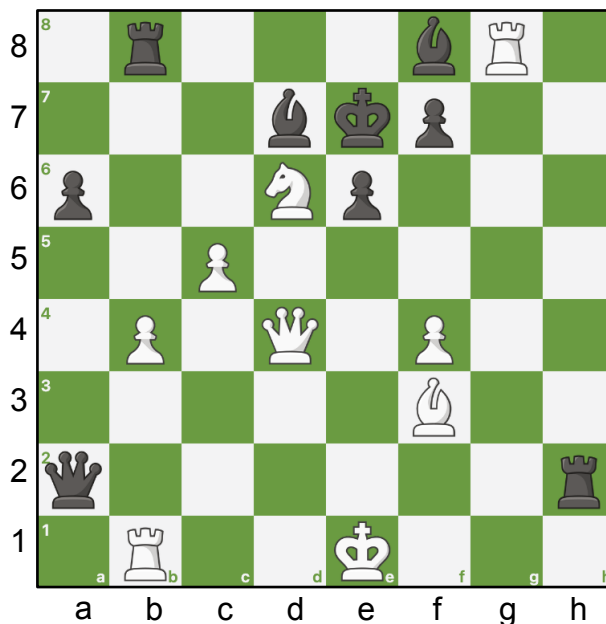


Challenge Puzzles

① White to play - Find best move.



② White to play - Find best move.



Hints.

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

Answers.

- ① 1. ♔g8+ ♖xg8 2. ♙xf6+ ♖g7 and the rook is pinned and can be captured at any point.
- ② 1. ♞f5+ ♔e8 2. ♖xf8+ ♔xf8 3. ♔g7+ ♔e8 4. ♔g8#. Other choices by black led to faster mates.

