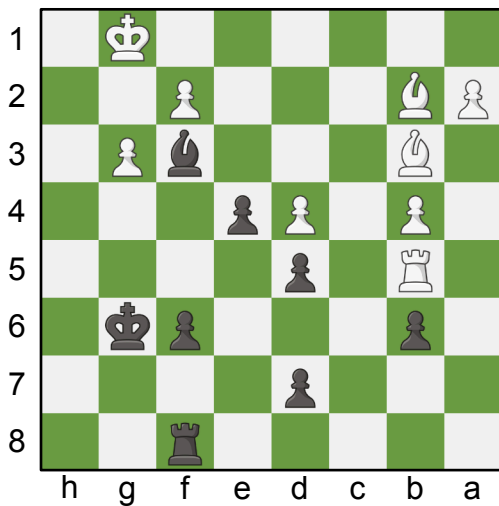


## 29. The Opera Game

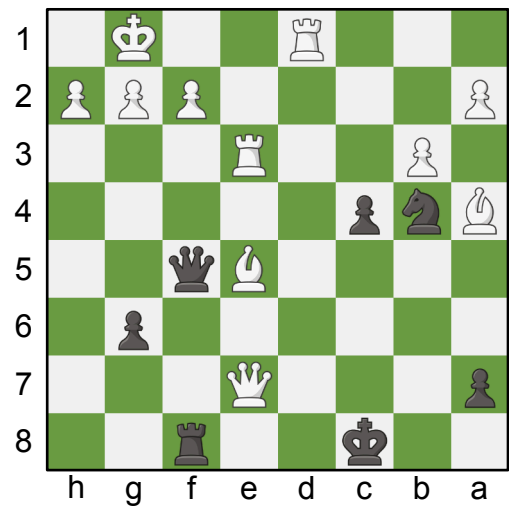
The Opera Game, played by Paul Morphy against Duke Karl of Brunswick and Count Isouard in 1858, is a celebrated chess match that took place at the Italian Opera House in Paris. Morphy, considered one of the greatest chess prodigies, demonstrated his exceptional skill in this game by prioritizing rapid development, control of the center, and effective use of his pieces. The game is famous for its brilliant execution of tactical motifs and elegant sacrifices, including a queen sacrifice that led to a decisive checkmate.

### Challenge Puzzles

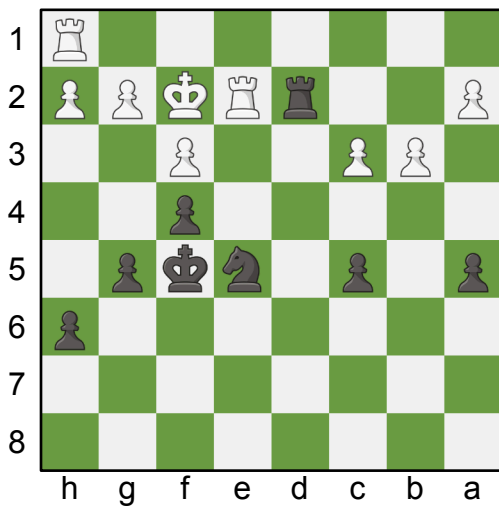
① Black to play - mate in 2.



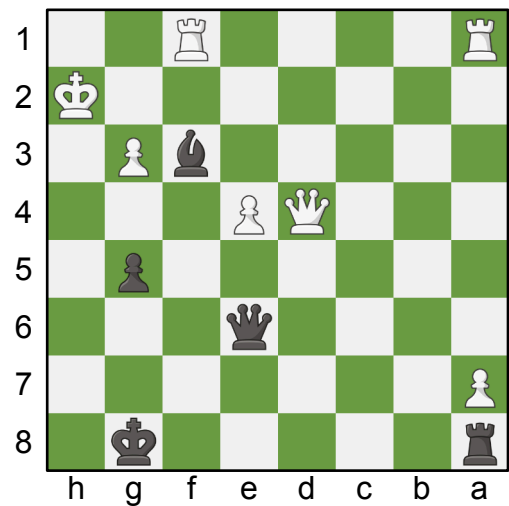
② Black to play - mate in 3.



③ Black to play - mate in 3.



④ Black to play - mate in 4.



Hints.

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

Answers.

- ① 1... ♖h8 2. any ♖h1#
- ② 1... ♕xf2+ 2. ♔h1 ♕f1+ 3. ♖xf1 ♖xf1#
- ③ 1... ♞d3+ 2. ♔g1 (or ♔f1) ♞d1+ 3. ♖e1 ♞xe1#
- ④ 1... ♕h6+ 2. ♔g1 ♕h1+ 3. ♔f2 ♕g2+ 4. ♔e1 (or ♔e3) ♕e2#

