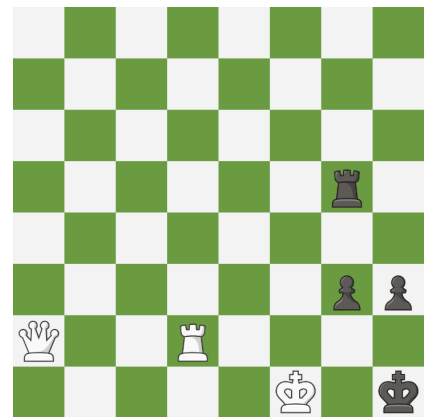


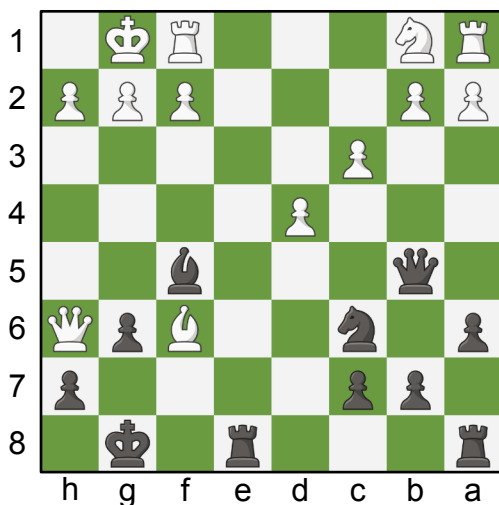
## 39. The Staircase

In this puzzle, it is white to move and win. There are multiple paths to victory, but the most satisfying path involves a staircase mate. The queen can take advantage of its superior mobility to take a staircase route across the board while limiting black's options.

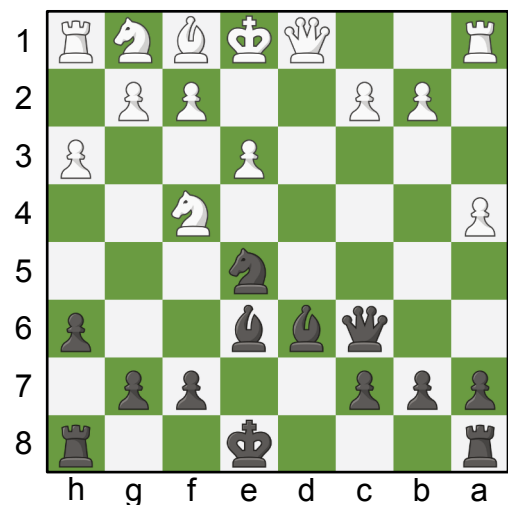


## Challenge Puzzles

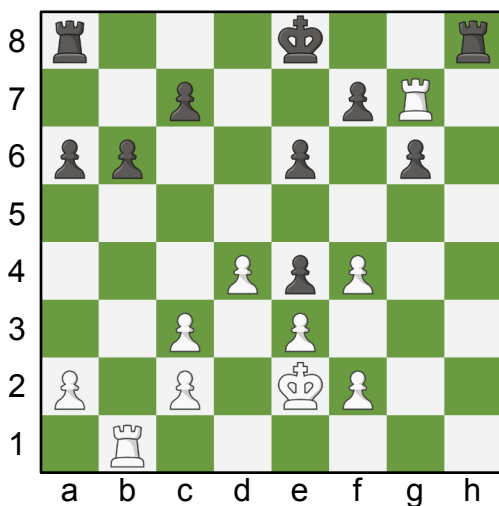
① Black to play - Find best move.



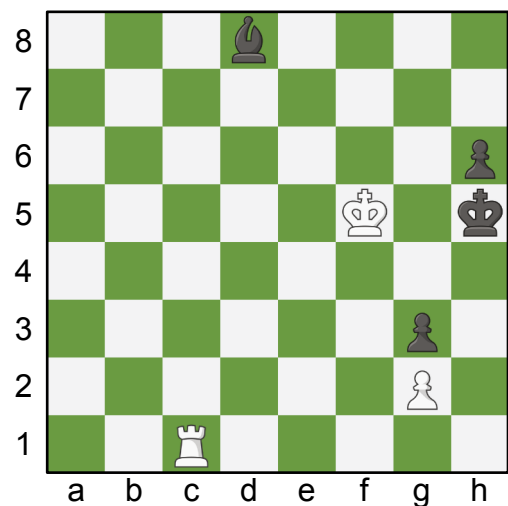
② Black to play - Find best move.



③ White to play - Find best move.



④ White to play - Mate in 3.



## Hints.

- ① Start with the queen.
- ② Start with a bishop.
- ③ Start with a rook.
- ④ Start with the rook.

## Answers.

- ① 1... ♔xf1+ 2. ♕xf1 ♘d3+ 3. ♖g1 ♗e1#
- ② 1... ♙b4+ 2. ♖c3 ♙xc3+ 3. ♖bxc3 ♔xc3+ 4. ♔d2 ♔xa1+
- ③ 1. ♖h1 ♗xh1 2. ♖g8+ ♔d7 3. ♖xa8
- ④ 1. ♖h1+ ♙h4 2. ♖h2 ♙gxh2 3. ♖g4#

