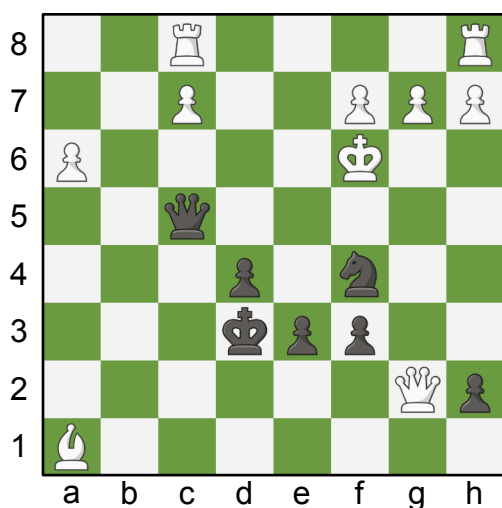# 26. Back Rank Mates

A back rank mate occurs when a king is trapped on the back rank by its own pawns and is checkmated by an opposing rook or queen.
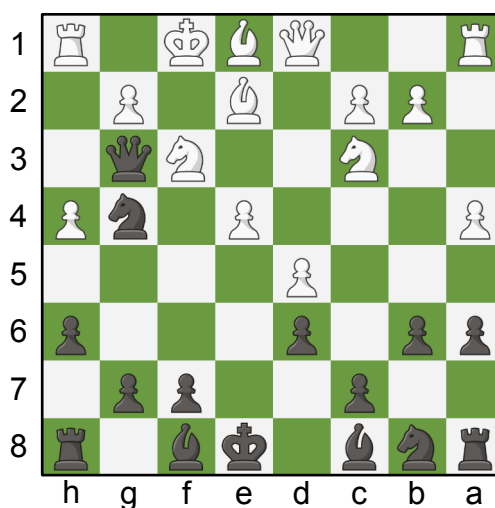
- This type of checkmate exploits the inability of the king to escape due to the barrier created by its own pawns.

- An attacking piece delivers the final check by moving to the back rank, often with the support of other pieces.

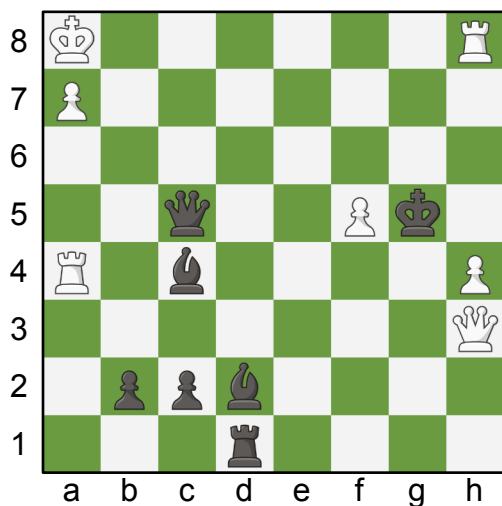- To avoid a bank rank mate, create an escape square for the king.
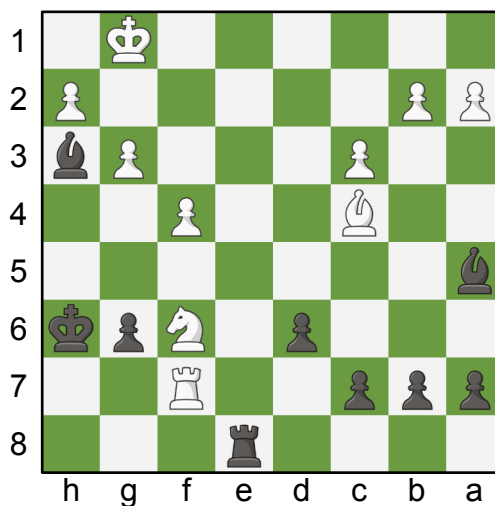
Challenge Puzzles

① Black to play - mate in 1.

② Black to play - mate in 2.

③ Black to play - mate in 2.

④ Black to play - mate in 3.

Hints.

① Use the queen.

② Start with the knight.

③ Start with the queen.

④ Start with a bishop.

Answers.

① 1… ♛d4#

② 1… ♞e3+ 2. ♔g1 ♛xg2#

③ 1... ♛f3+ 2. ♔g1 ♝c5#

④ 1… ♝b6+ 2. ♔h1 ♜e1+ 3. ♝f1 ♜xf1#

♔♕♖♗♘♙ ♚♛♜♝♞♟