

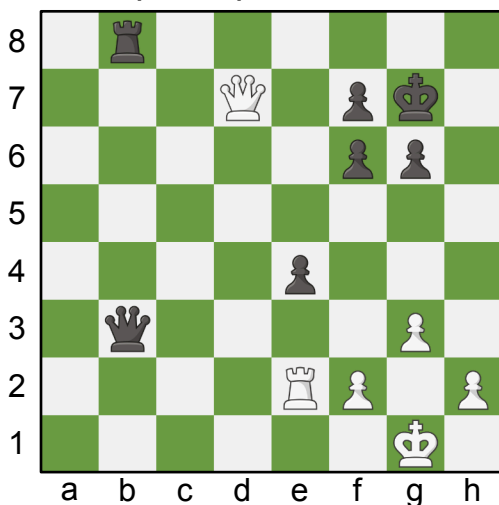
30. The Poisoned Pawn

The poisoned pawn is a concept in chess where a seemingly free or weak pawn is deliberately offered as bait to lure an opponent into a disadvantageous position.

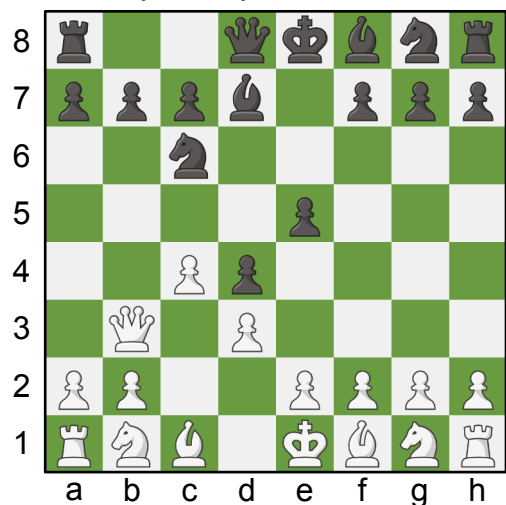
- Taking the poisoned pawn can lead to severe consequences, such as exposing the opponent's pieces to attacks, weakening their position, or falling into tactical traps.
- The poisoned pawn illustrates the balance between material gain and positional considerations, highlighting the potential dangers of greed and the importance of careful calculation in chess.

Challenge Puzzles

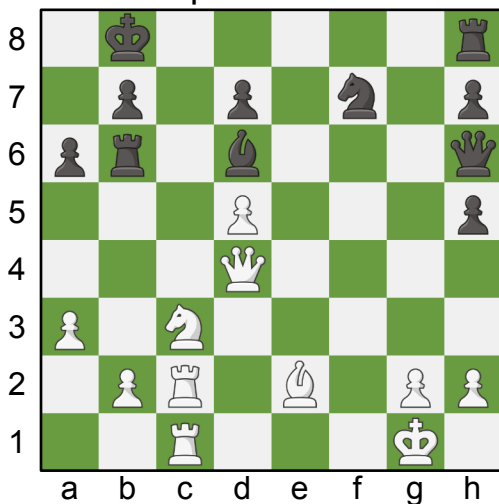
① White to play - Is the pawn poisoned?



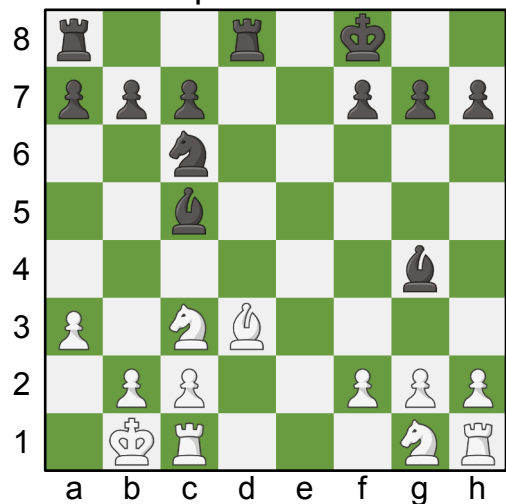
② White to play - Is the pawn poisoned?



③ White to play - Is the rook poisoned?



④ White to play - Is the pawn poisoned?



Hints.

- ① The pawn in question is the e4 pawn.
- ② The pawn in question is the b7 pawn.
- ③ The rook in question is the b6 rook.
- ④ The pawn in question is the h7 pawn.

Answers.

- ① It's poisoned. 1. ♖xe4 ♔b1+
- ② It's poisoned. 1. ♔xb7 ♖b8 2. ♔a6 ♞b4 3. ♔b5 ♞c2+
- ③ It's poisoned. 1. ♔xb6 ♙xh2 2. ♔xh2 ♔xb6
- ④ It's poisoned. 1. ♙xh7 ♟g6 and the bishop is trapped.

