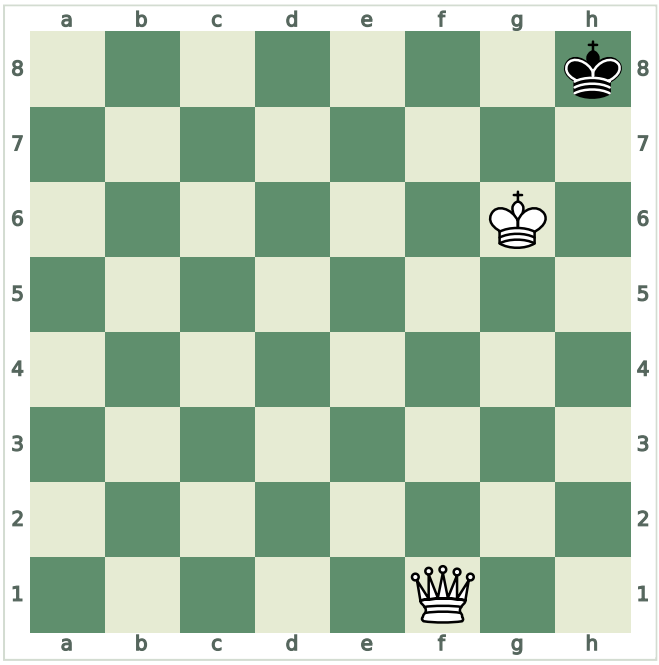
Ten starter puzzles

Shubham Chess Academy · for children who have just learned the moves

Every puzzle is White to move and checkmate in one. Write the move, or set the position up on a real board and play it. Answers are on the last page, so fold it back first.



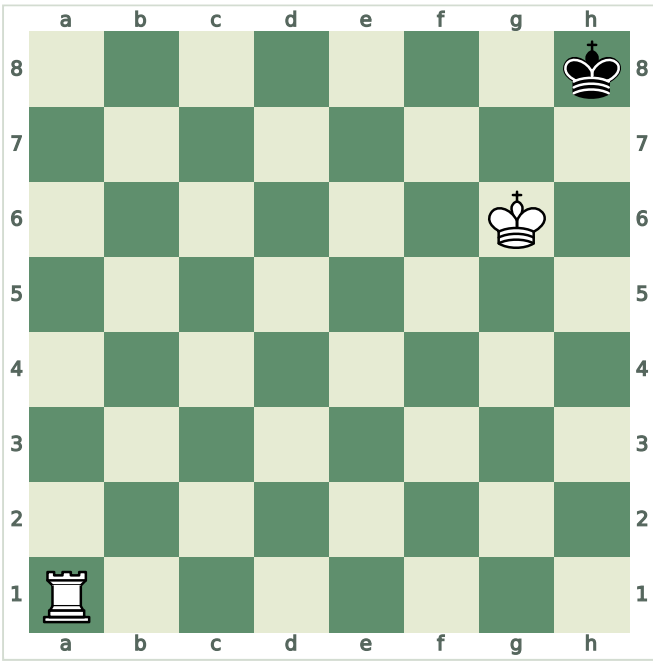
PUZZLE 1

Queen and king

White to move. Checkmate in one.

Hint: The white king already takes away the squares next to the black king. Where does the queen give check along the back rank?

Your answer: _____



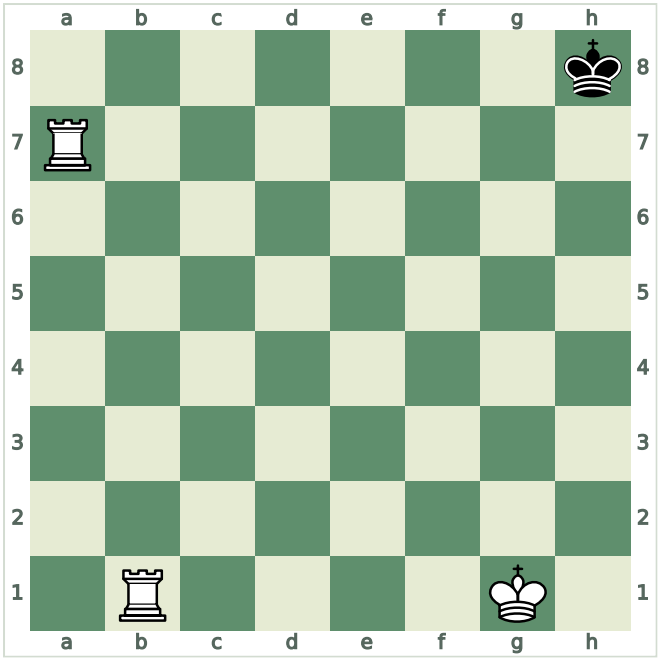
PUZZLE 2

Rook and king

White to move. Checkmate in one.

Hint: Same idea as puzzle 1, with a rook. Check on the last rank.

Your answer: _____



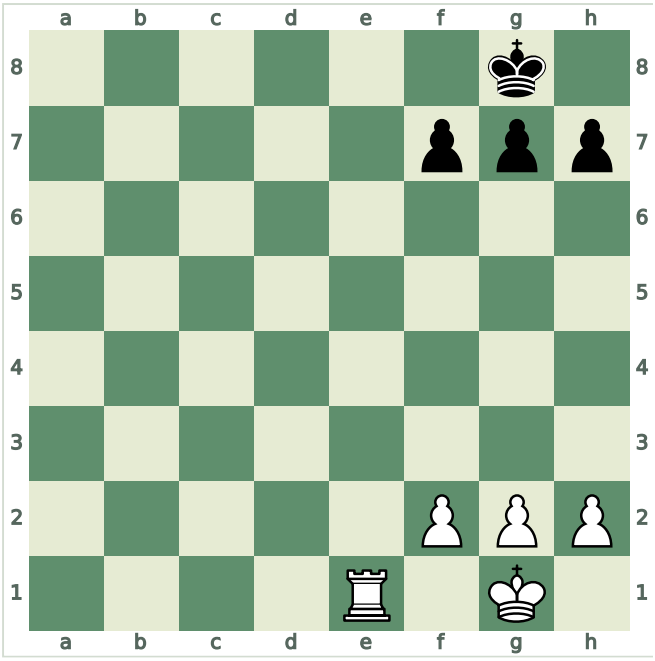
PUZZLE 3

Two rooks

White to move. Checkmate in one.

Hint: One rook already guards the 7th rank, so the king cannot step down. Use the other rook for the check.

Your answer: _____



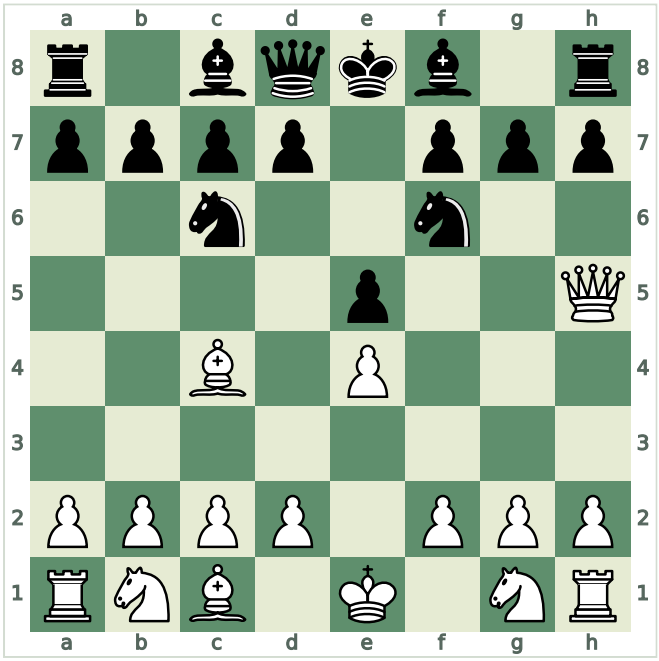
PUZZLE 4

Back-rank mate

White to move. Checkmate in one.

Hint: The black king is boxed in by its own pawns. A rook on the back rank ends the game.

Your answer: _____



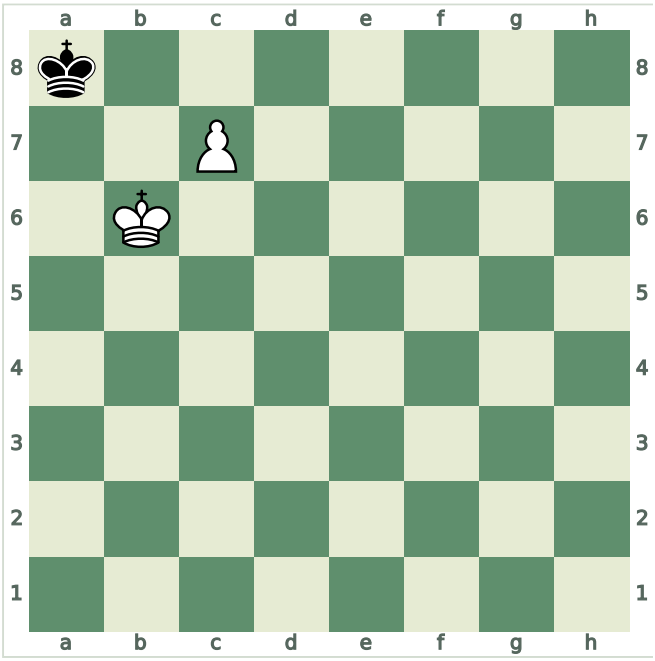
PUZZLE 5

Scholar's mate

White to move. Checkmate in one.

Hint: The queen and bishop both look at one weak square next to the black king.

Your answer: _____



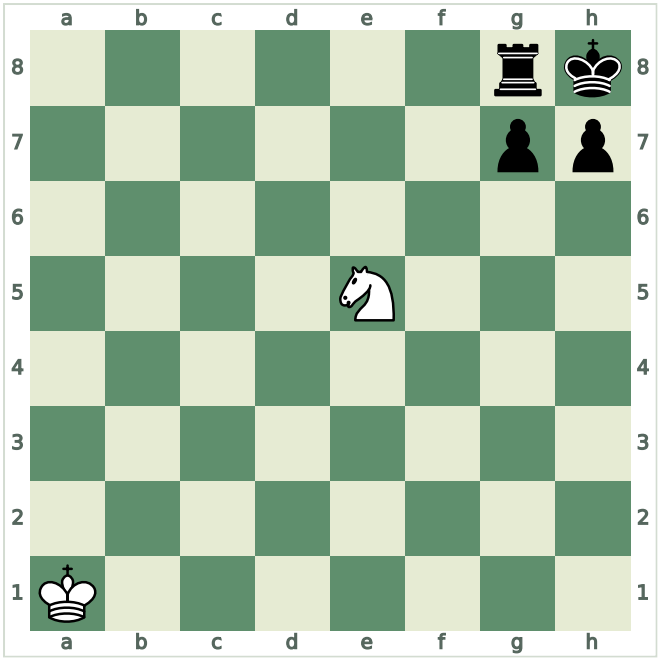
PUZZLE 6

Promotion

White to move. Checkmate in one.

Hint: The pawn is one step from becoming a queen. Is that also checkmate?

Your answer: _____



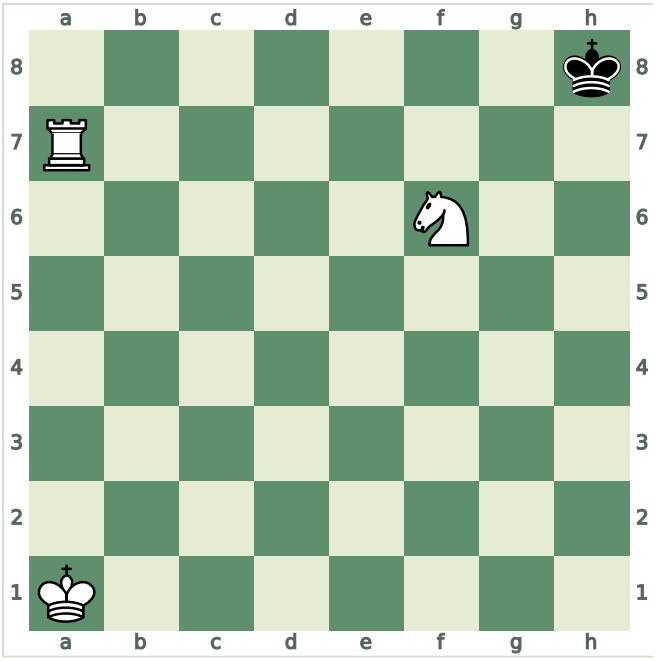
PUZZLE 7

Smothered mate

White to move. Checkmate in one.

Hint: The black king cannot move because its own pieces surround it. Only one white piece can give check.

Your answer: _____



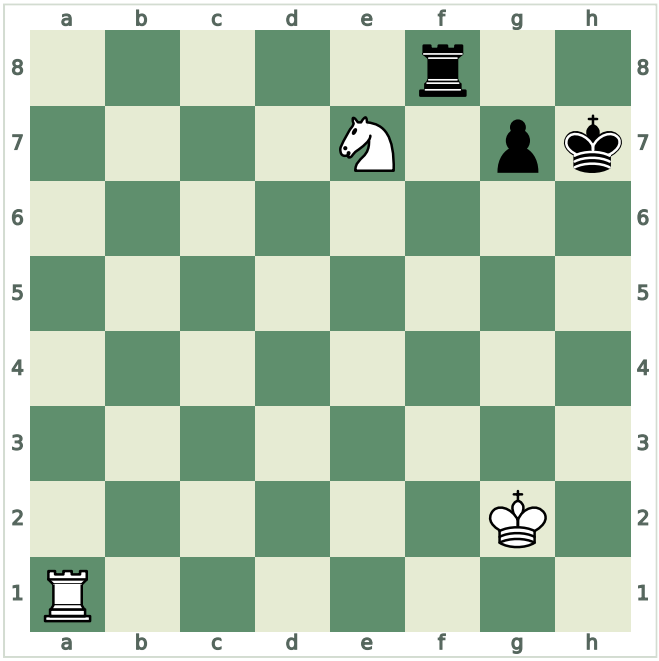
PUZZLE 8

Arabian mate

White to move. Checkmate in one.

Hint: The knight guards g8 and h7. Bring the rook to the square it protects.

Your answer: _____



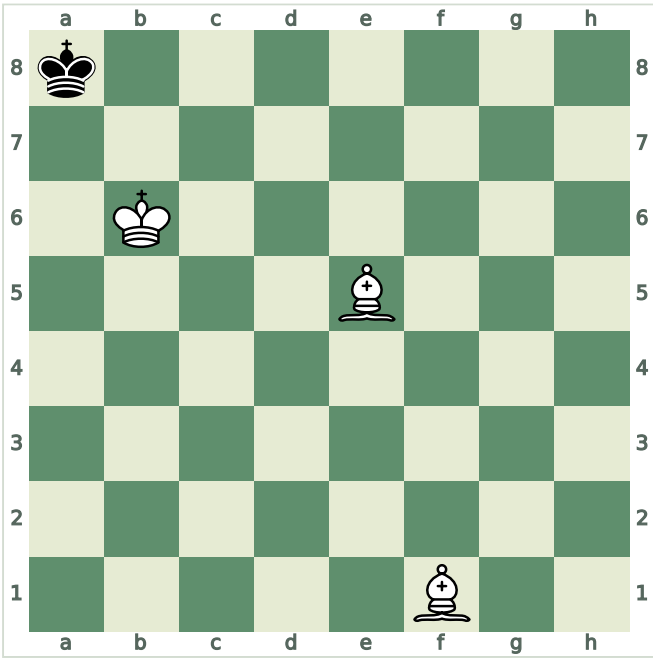
PUZZLE 9

Anastasia's mate

White to move. Checkmate in one.

Hint: The knight on e7 takes away both squares on the g-file. The rook needs an open file.

Your answer: _____



PUZZLE 10

Two bishops

White to move. Checkmate in one.

Hint: The bishop on e5 covers b8. The other bishop must give check on the long diagonal.

Your answer: _____

Answers

Check only after trying every puzzle

1. **Puzzle 1 · Queen and king:** Qf8#
2. **Puzzle 2 · Rook and king:** Ra8#
3. **Puzzle 3 · Two rooks:** Rb8#
4. **Puzzle 4 · Back-rank mate:** Re8#
5. **Puzzle 5 · Scholar's mate:** Qxf7#
6. **Puzzle 6 · Promotion:** c8=Q# or c8=R#
7. **Puzzle 7 · Smothered mate:** Nf7#
8. **Puzzle 8 · Arabian mate:** Rh7#
9. **Puzzle 9 · Anastasia's mate:** Rh1#
0. **Puzzle 10 · Two bishops:** Bg2#

How to read a move: the letter is the piece (Q queen, R rook, N knight, B bishop, no letter for a pawn), then the square it goes to. "x" means a capture, "=Q" means the pawn becomes a queen, and "#" means checkmate.

Was this too easy or too hard? That tells us your child's level. Book a free assessment class on WhatsApp at +91 82238 20430, or visit shubham.akashs.com.

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