

Back Rank Mates

Advanced · Rating 1892-2299 · 12 positions

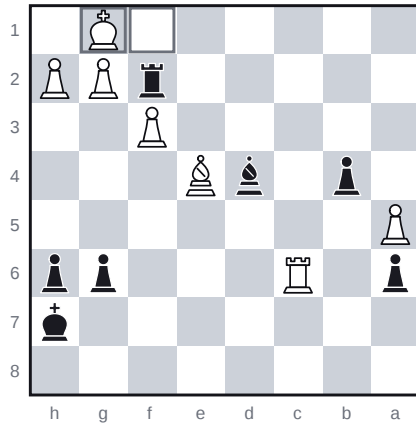
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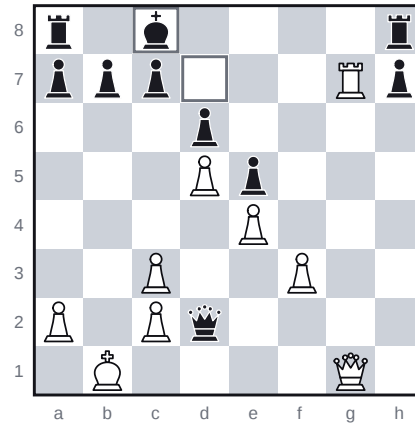
Find the best move for the side to move and write it in the box. The two outlined squares show the move just played. Answers on the last page.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12

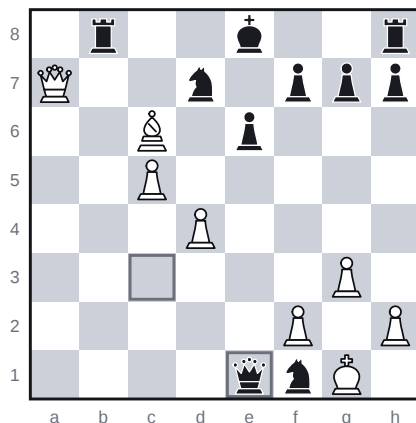
1 Black to move (1892)



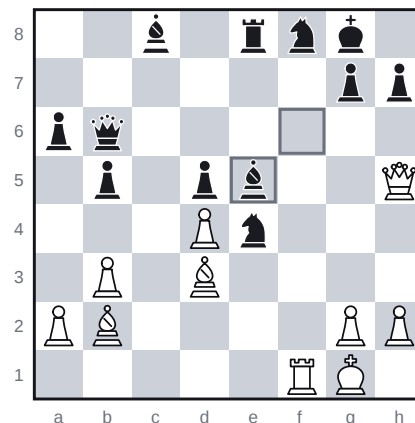
2 White to move (1914)



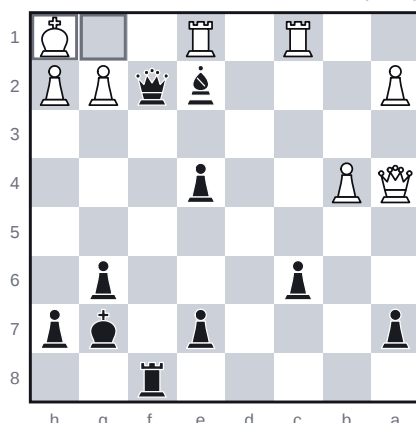
3 White to move (1927)



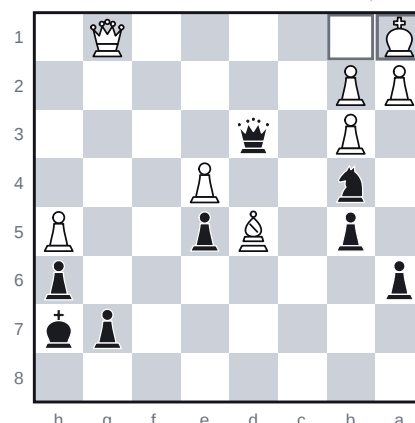
4 White to move (1945)



5 Black to move (1958)



6 Black to move (1982)



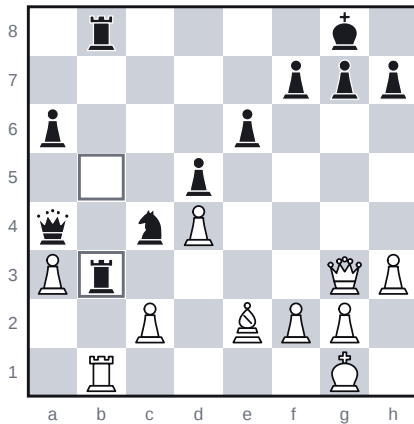
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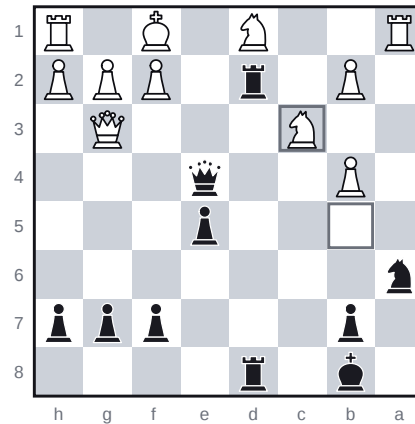
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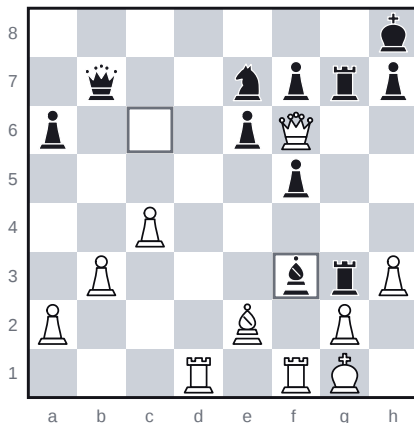
7 White to move (2008)



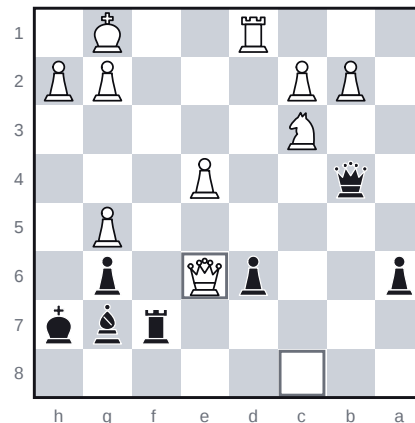
8 Black to move (2068)



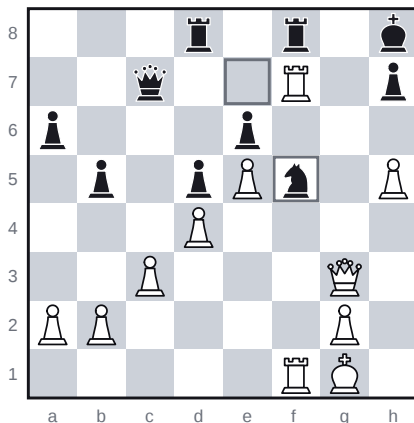
9 White to move (2101)



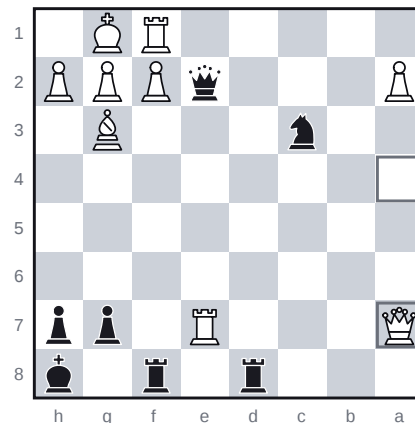
10 Black to move (2157)



11 White to move (2241)



12 Black to move (2299)



Answer key

Back Rank Mates · Advanced

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What to look for

A king shut in by its own pawns with no escape square. Count the flight squares before you count the attackers.

1. **36...Rxf3+ 37.Kh1 Rf1#** #NbSiC
Mate in 2.
2. **24.Qg4+ Kb8 25.Rg8+ Rxcg8 26.Qxcg8#** #R8fVE
Mate in 3.
3. **21.Qxd7+ Kf8 22.Qd6+ Kg8 23.Qxb8#** #bCAwn
Mate in 3.
4. **26.Qf7+ Kh8 27.Qxf8+ Rxf8 28.Rxf8#** #ozo0t
The queen on f7 attacks the king on g8 and the rook on e8. Mate in 3.
5. **22...Bf1 23.Rxf1 Qxf1+ 24.Rxf1 Rxf1#** #Ffy5
Mate in 3.
6. **41...Nc2+ 42.Kb1 Ne1+ 43.Ka1 Qd1#** #Fqs1E
Mate in 3.
7. **28.Qxb8+ Rxb8 29.Rxb8+ Qe8 30.Rxe8#** #xOMPF
The queen on b8 attacks the king on g8 and the rook on b3. Mate in 3.
8. **27...Qe2+ 28.Nxe2 Rxd1+ 29.Rxd1 Rxd1#** #Qjzqw
The queen on e2 attacks the king on f1 and the knight on d1. Mate in 3.
9. **31.Rd8+ Ng8 32.Rxcg8+ Kxcg8 33.Qd8#** #pXVu2
Mate in 3.
10. **27...Qd4+ 28.Rxd4 Bxd4+ 29.Kh1 Rf1#** #NNaDi
The queen on d4 attacks the king on g1 and the rook on d1. Mate in 3.
11. **26.Qg7+ Nxcg7 27.Rxf8+ Rxf8 28.Rxf8#** #nk7cu
The queen on g7 attacks the king on h8 and the rook on f8. Mate in 3.
12. **29...Rd1 30.Rxe2 Nxe2+ 31.Kh1 Rxf1#** #Sx6ZG
Mate in 3.

About these worksheets

This is one of three sheets for back rank mates. The Easy and Intermediate sheets cover the same pattern at other rating bands. Thirteen other patterns are available the same way, including forks, pins, skewers, back rank mates, mate in one and smothered mate. All free, all with answer keys, no sign-up.

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The positions come from the free Reflex Chess trainer: 87 skills and 10,440 positions from real games, banded by rating, in a browser, offline, with no ads. Solving on paper is the half of this that builds calculation; the trainer is the half that tells you straight away whether you were right.