

Back Rank Mates

Easy · Rating 441-1221 · 12 positions

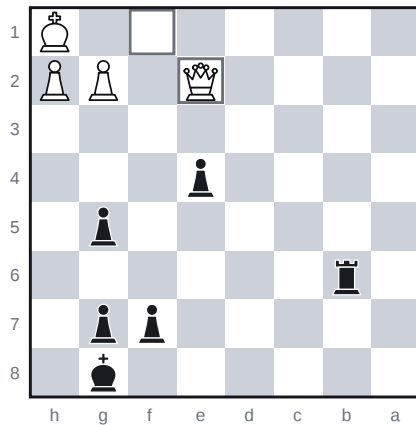
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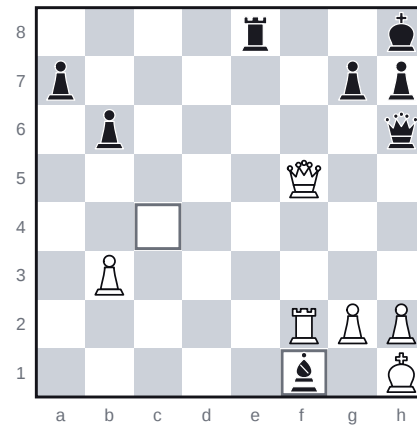
Find the best move for the side to move and write it in the box. The two outlined squares show the move just played. Answers on the last page.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12

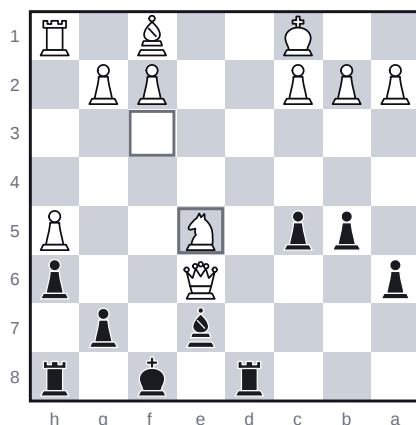
1 Black to move (441)



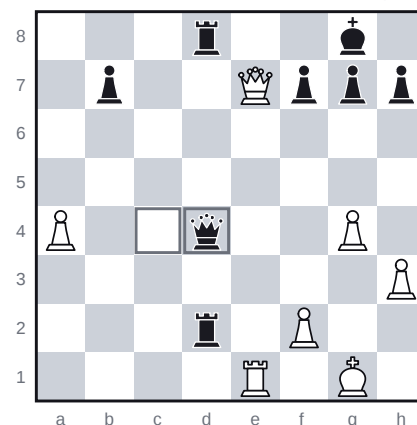
2 White to move (744)



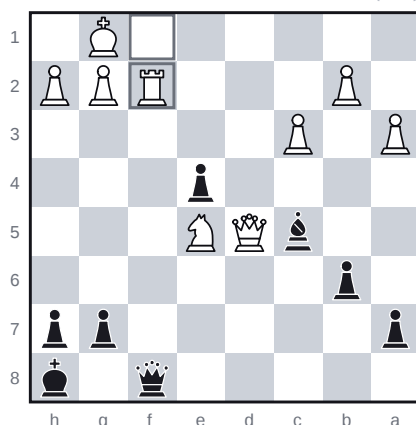
3 Black to move (844)



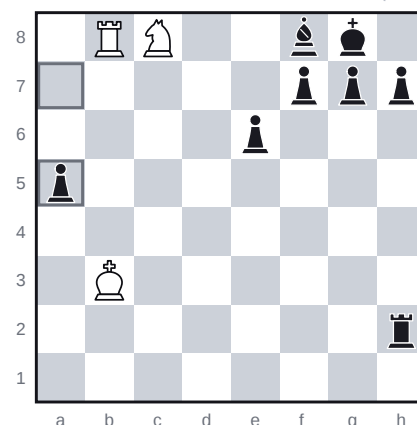
4 White to move (882)



5 Black to move (909)



6 White to move (951)



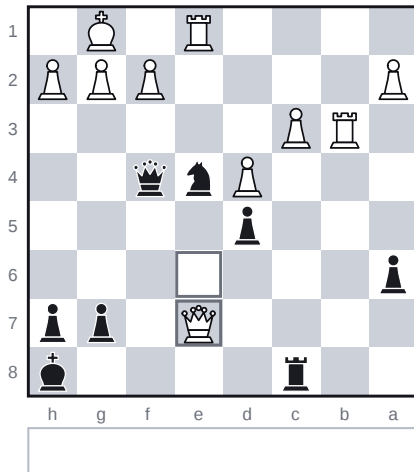
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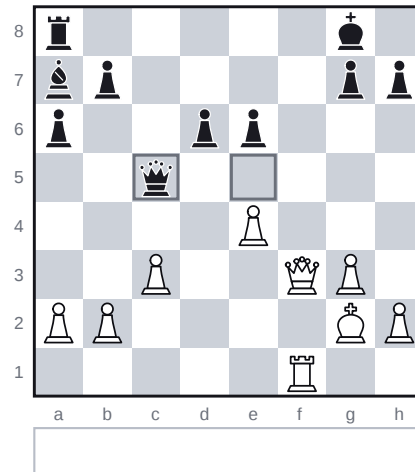
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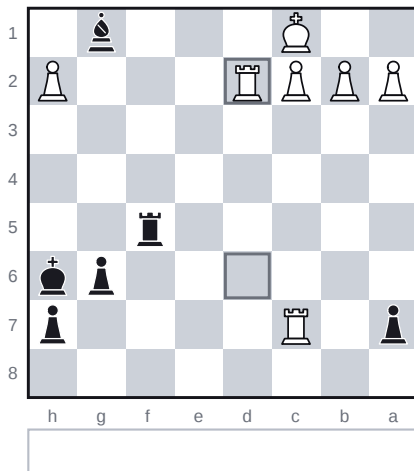
7 Black to move (973)



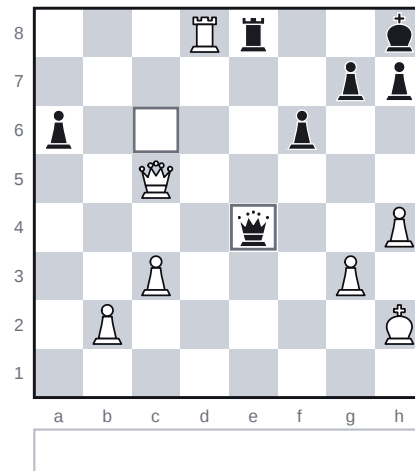
8 White to move (993)



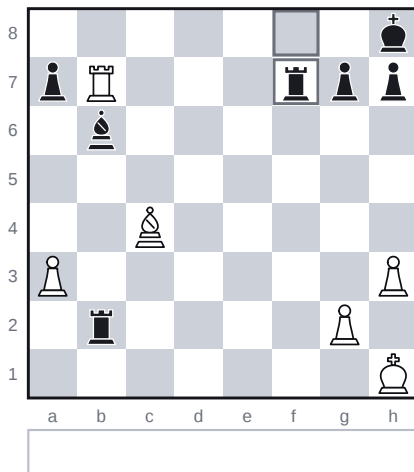
9 Black to move (1130)



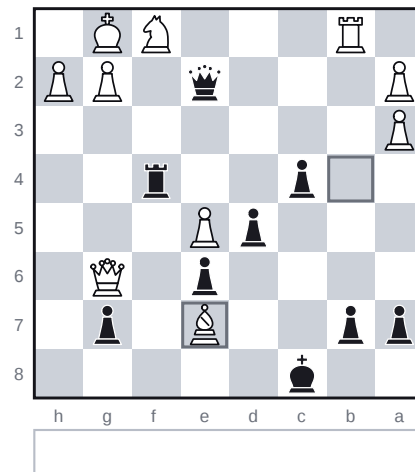
10 White to move (1171)



11 White to move (1185)



12 Black to move (1221)



Answer key

Back Rank Mates · Easy

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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. **46...Rb1+ 47.Qd1 Rxd1#** #469oJ
Mate in 2.
2. **39.Qf8+ Rxf8 40.Rxf8#** #UNP5Y
The queen on f8 attacks the king on h8 and the rook on e8. Mate in 2.
3. **18...Bg5+ 19.f4 Bxf4+ 20.Kb1 Rd1#** #AgZZg
Mate in 3.
4. **37.Qe8+ Rxe8 38.Rxe8#** #QGmVN
The queen on e8 attacks the king on g8 and the rook on d8. Mate in 2.
5. **26...Qxf2+ 27.Kh1 Qe1#** #KdnnS
Mate in 2.
6. **31.Ne7+ Kh8 32.Rxf8#** #7ZLTR
Mate in 2.
7. **25...Qxf2+ 26.Kh1 Qxe1#** #7AeYv
The queen on f2 attacks the king on g1 and the rook on e1. Mate in 2.
8. **24.Qf7+ Kh8 25.Qf8+ Rxf8 26.Rxf8#** #HAPjZ
Mate in 3.
9. **31...Rf1+ 32.Rd1 Be3+ 33.Kb1 Rxd1#** #6r3a9
Mate in 3.
10. **35.Qf8+ Rxf8 36.Rxf8#** #DYIxZ
The queen on f8 attacks the king on h8 and the rook on e8. Mate in 2.
11. **30.Rb8+ Bd8 31.Rxd8+ Rf8 32.Rxf8#** #ANP8S
The rook on b8 attacks the king on h8 and the bishop on b6. Mate in 3.
12. **28...Qf2+ 29.Kh1 Qxf1+ 30.Rxf1 Rxf1#** #AKMu5
The queen on f2 attacks the king on g1 and the knight on f1. Mate in 3.

About these worksheets

This is one of three sheets for back rank mates. The Intermediate and Advanced 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.