

Smothered Mate

Advanced · Rating 1798-2145 · 12 positions

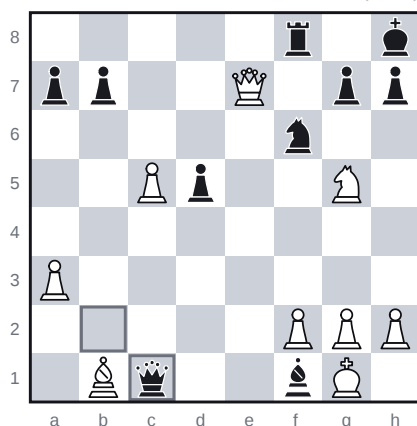
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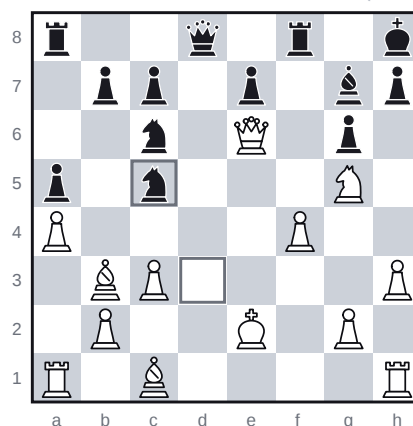
Find the best move for the side to move and write it in the box. The two outlined squares show the move just played. Answers on the last page.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12

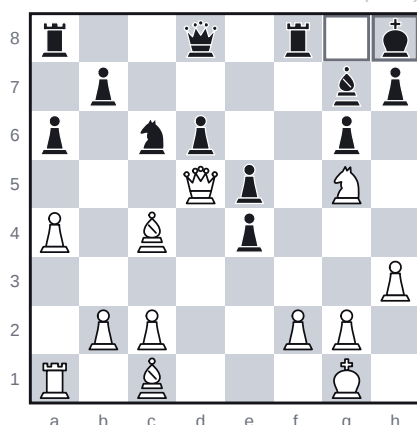
1 White to move (1798)



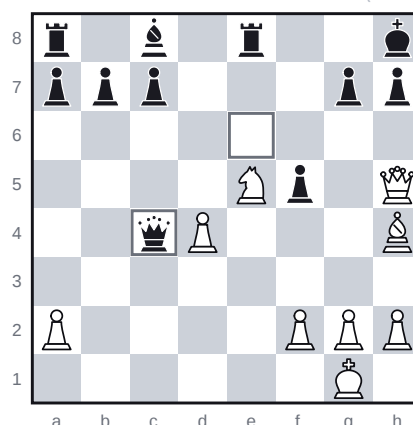
2 White to move (1803)



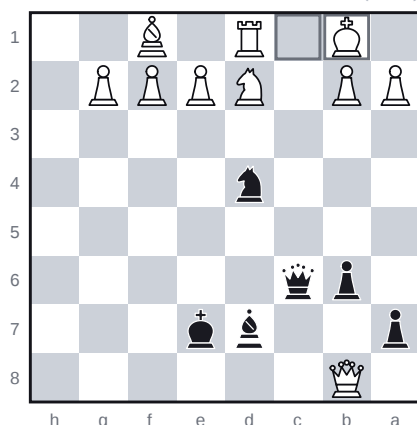
3 White to move (1809)



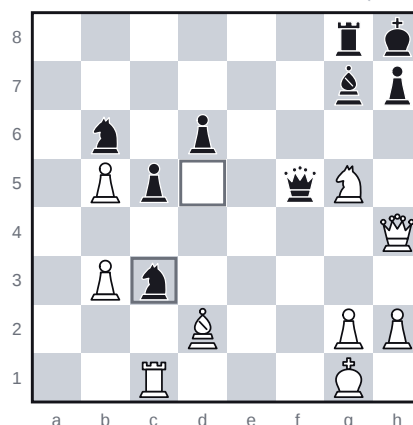
4 White to move (1815)



5 Black to move (1835)



6 White to move (1844)



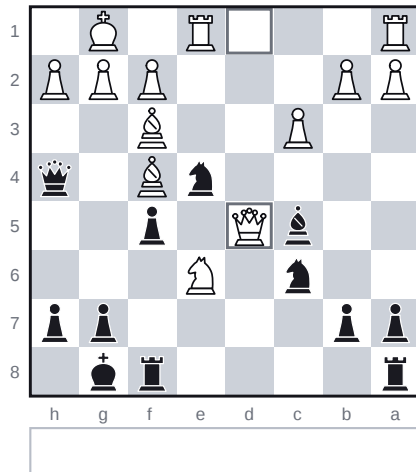
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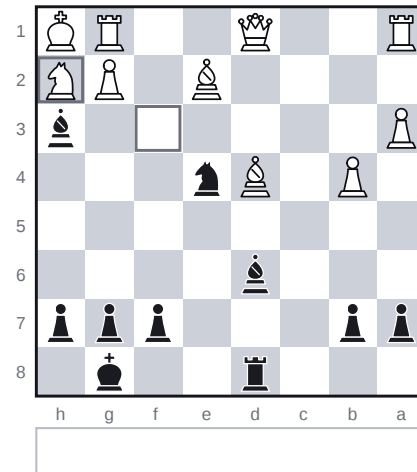
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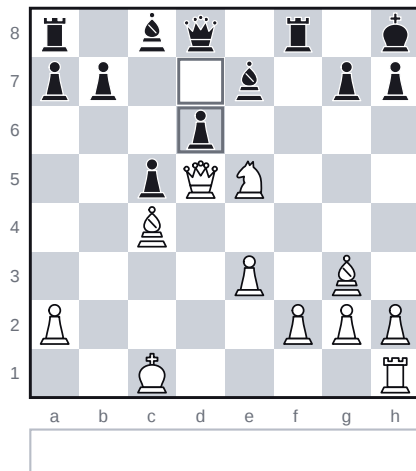
7 Black to move (1860)



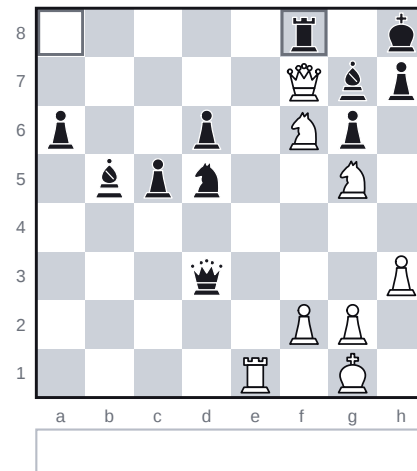
8 Black to move (1895)



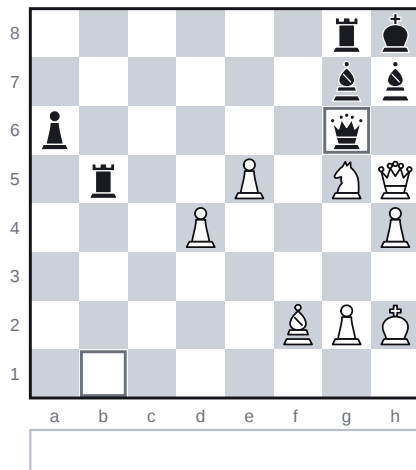
9 White to move (1923)



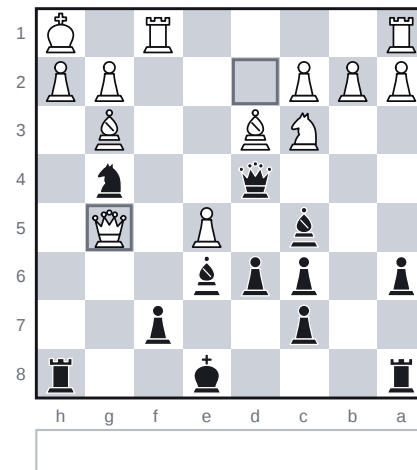
10 White to move (2001)



11 White to move (2035)



12 Black to move (2145)



Answer key

Smothered Mate · Advanced

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What to look for

A king boxed in by its own pieces and mated by a knight. Usually the last square is filled by a sacrifice that forces a piece onto it.

1. **25.Qxf8+ Ng8 26.Nf7#** #jjJeB
The queen on f8 attacks the king on h8 and the knight on f6. Mate in 2.
2. **19.Qg8+ Rxc8 20.Nf7#** #3CNM9
The queen on g8 attacks the king on h8 and the rook on f8. Mate in 2.
3. **17.Qg8+ Rxc8 18.Nf7#** #9sJvB
The queen on g8 attacks the king on h8 and the rook on f8. Mate in 2.
4. **22.Qxe8+ Qg8 23.Nf7#** #jyOaR
The queen on e8 attacks the king on h8 and the bishop on c8. Mate in 2.
5. **31...Qc2+ 32.Ka1 Qxd1+ 33.Nb1 Nc2#** #LNUJ9
The queen on c2 attacks the king on b1 and the rook on d1. Mate in 3.
6. **26.Qxh7+ Qxh7 27.Nf7#** #Mg3l9
The queen on h7 attacks the king on h8 and the queen on f5. Mate in 2.
7. **15...Qxf2+ 16.Kh1 Qg1+ 17.Rxc1 Nf2#** #wwwR0e
The queen on f2 attacks the king on g1 and the rook on e1. Mate in 3.
8. **24...Ng3#** #lpfBX
The knight on g3 attacks the king on h1 and the bishop on e2. Mate in one.
9. **19.Qg8+ Rxc8 20.Nf7#** #6qt4L
The queen on g8 attacks the king on h8 and the rook on f8. Mate in 2.
10. **30.Qg8+ Rxc8 31.Nf7#** #qKW3B
The queen on g8 attacks the king on h8 and the rook on f8. Mate in 2.
11. **42.Qxh7+ Qxh7 43.Nf7#** #Dj7Kn
The queen on h7 attacks the king on h8 and the queen on g6. Mate in 2.
12. **17...Qg1+ 18.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 19.Bxc1 Nf2#** #tyuig
The queen on g1 attacks the king on h1 and the rook on f1. Mate in 3.

About these worksheets

This is one of three sheets for smothered mate. 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.