

Smothered Mate

Intermediate · Rating 1320-1759 · 12 positions

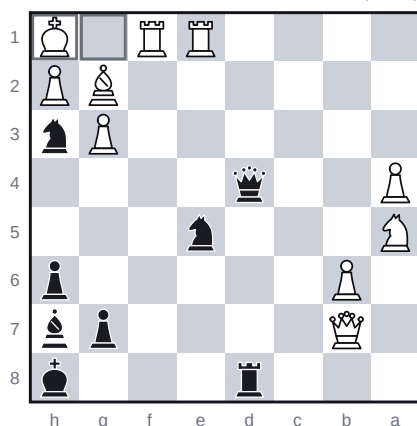
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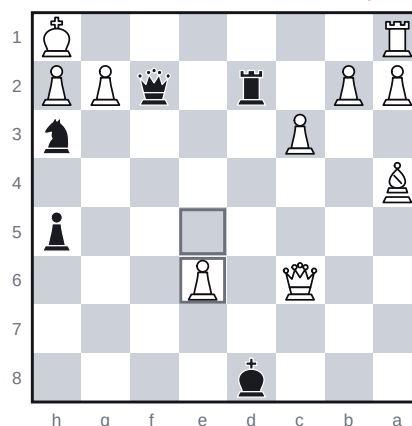
Find the best move for the side to move and write it in the box. The two outlined squares show the move just played. Answers on the last page.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 12

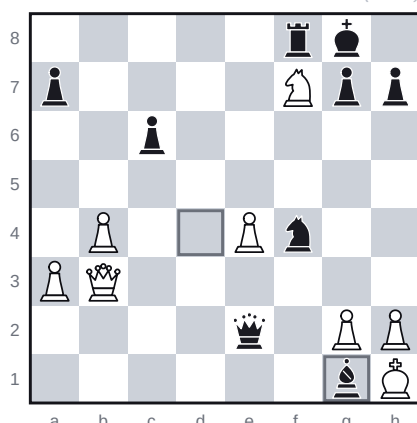
1 Black to move (1320)



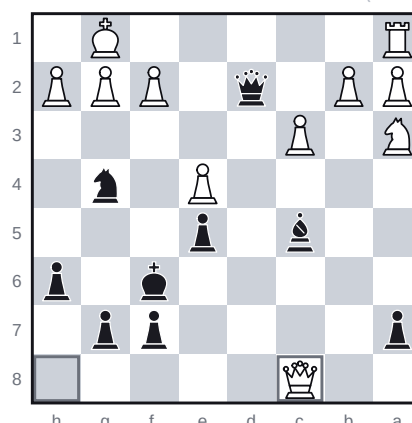
2 Black to move (1335)



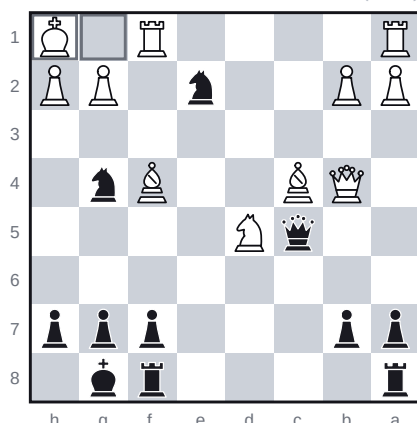
3 White to move (1370)



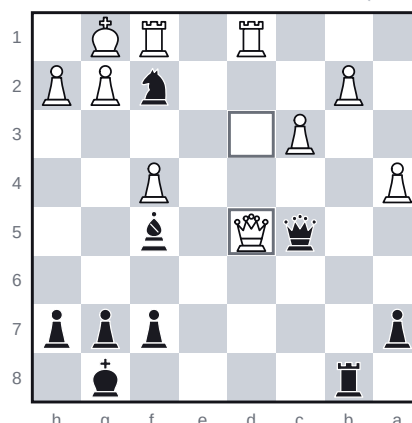
4 Black to move (1446)



5 Black to move (1505)



6 Black to move (1543)



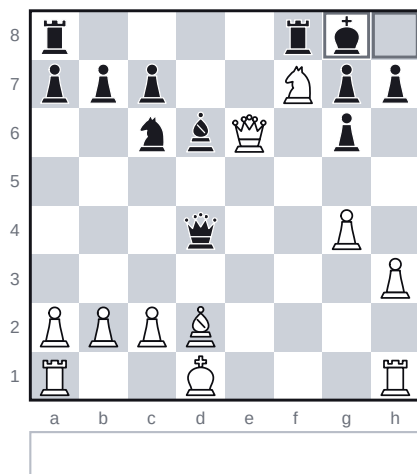
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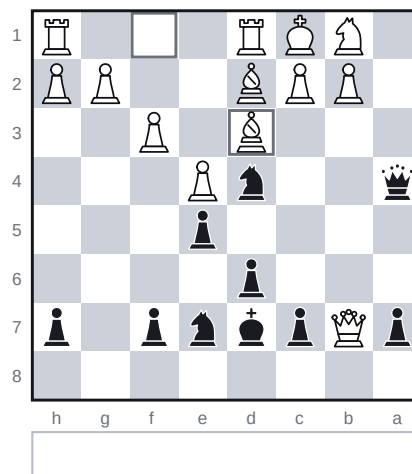
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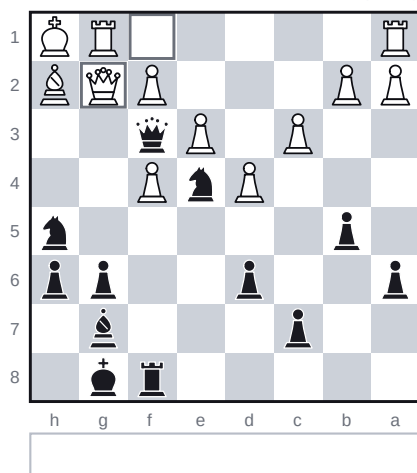
7 White to move (1578)



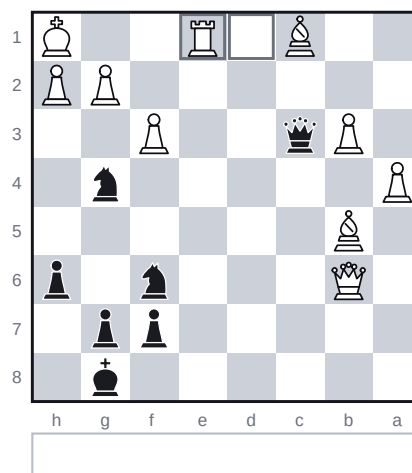
8 Black to move (1634)



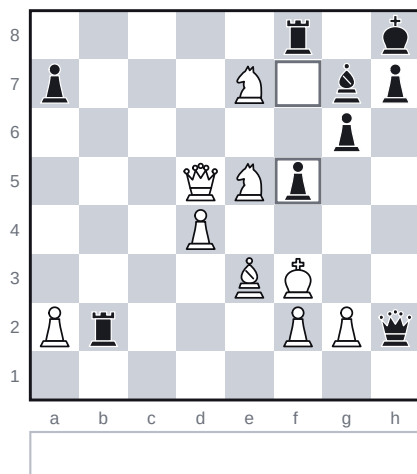
9 Black to move (1671)



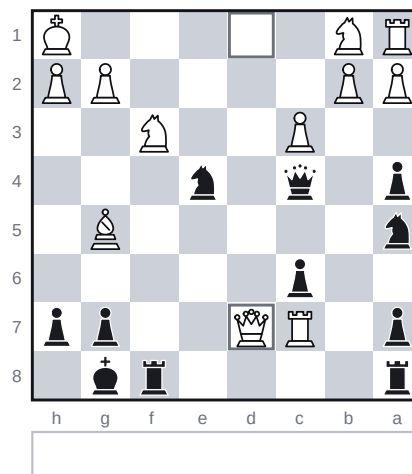
10 Black to move (1699)



11 White to move (1736)



12 Black to move (1759)



Answer key

Smothered Mate · Intermediate

REFLEX CHESS

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. **41...Qg1+ 42.Rxg1 Nf2#** #DSmKF
The queen on g1 attacks the king on h1 and the rook on f1. Mate in 2.
2. **34...Qg1+ 35.Rxg1 Nf2#** #U1J4b
The queen on g1 attacks the king on h1 and the rook on a1. Mate in 2.
3. **27.Nh6+ Kh8 28.Qg8+ Rxg8 29.Nf7#** #ay4Ex
Mate in 3.
4. **24...Qxf2+ 25.Kh1 Qg1+ 26.Rxg1 Nf2#** #U0moA
Mate in 3.
5. **17...Qg1+ 18.Rxg1 Nf2#** #BF1aD
The queen on g1 attacks the king on h1 and the rook on f1. Mate in 2.
6. **21...Nh3+ 22.Kh1 Qg1+ 23.Rxg1 Nf2#** #XWLJo
Mate in 3.
7. **18.Nh6+ Kh8 19.Qg8+ Rxg8 20.Nf7#** #n9xew
Mate in 3.
8. **20...Qxc2+ 21.Bxc2 Ne2#** #dN8Yp
The queen on c2 attacks the king on c1 and the rook on d1. Mate in 2.
9. **22...Nxf2#** #ynZxI
Mate in one.
10. **35...Qxe1+ 36.Bf1 Qxf1+ 37.Qg1 Nf2#** #S4jKM
The queen on e1 attacks the king on h1 and the bishop on c1. Mate in 3.
11. **23.Qg8+ Rxg8 24.Nf7#** #7xe0T
The queen on g8 attacks the king on h8 and the rook on f8. Mate in 2.
12. **21...Qf1+ 22.Ng1 Nf2#** #ozm6j
The queen on f1 attacks the king on h1 and the knight on f3. Mate in 2.

About these worksheets

This is one of three sheets for smothered mate. The Easy 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.