

THE MOVES: As soon as you learn the simple moves of the various Chessmen, you're ready to start.

THE PAWN: The Pawn being the feeblest man on the board can move in ONE DIRECTION ONLY -STRAIGHT AHEAD. On its first move, a Pawn can advance either 1 or 2 squares - at the player's choice, but on all following moves, only one square at a time. If a piece happens to be immediately in front of it, the Pawn is blocked and can not advance until that piece gets out of the way. The Pawn can capture any opposing piece which appears in the next square diagonally ahead, either on its right or left. As in the case of all captures, the captured piece is taken off the board and the captor moves to the square formerly held by the captured. Should a Pawn safely reach his opponent's first row, it attains the power of a Queen or any other piece the players chooses except King. Thus it's perfectly possible to have two or more White or Black Queens on the board at the same time. (A Pawn will serve as a Queen, if a real one is not available.)

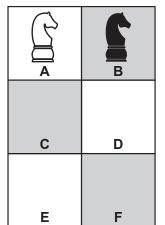
THE BISHOP: The Bishop moves only ALONG THE DIAGONAL, but being stronger than the Pawn, he can go backwards as well as forwards. Likewise, in one move, he can go as few or as many squares along diagonals as are VACANT. He may capture any enemy piece appearing on same diagonal, PROVIDED NO OTHER PIECE LIES BETWEEN CAPTOR AND CAPTURED.

THE ROOK: The Rook moves in a straight line, either ACROSS THE BOARD OR UP AND DOWN THE BOARD. Like the Bishop its range is unlimited being able to move back and forth over any number of vacant squares on any horizontal and vertical. It too can capture any opposing piece appearing on the same row, provided no piece of its own colour comes between it and the enemy.

THE QUEEN: She is the most powerful piece on the board, she has the combined powers of Bishop and Rook. She can move back and forth on the diagonal, like the Bishop, and back and forth on the horizontal or vertical, like the Rook, capturing any exposed enemy piece she meets on her way.

THE KNIGHT: At first, the Knight's moves seem queer, but you'll catch on. It's really a jump over one square, but landing in a square of a different colour from the one he left. Thus, if he is on dark, his move will be into light and vice versa. Look at Fig 3, a rectangle, 2 squares wide and 3 squares long. The Knight leaps from one corner to the opposite corner. White Knight from A to F (or from F to A) and Black Knight from B to E or E to B. Since the Knight is the only chessman that can jump over pieces, it is immaterial whether or not squares C and D are occupied. Just for practice, start a Knight on his own square and trot him all over an empty board -always visualizing the Knight's square as one corner of the 2 x 3 rectangle. He can cover 64 squares. Put a match in each one he occupies and see for yourself! The Knight can capture any piece occupying a square into which he could jump on his next move.

Fig 3.



THE KING: Like the Pawn, he can move only one square at a time - but he can go in any direction he likes and can capture any piece appearing in a square adjacent to the one he is occupying. The King can't move into "Check".

CHECK AND CHECKMATE : The King is the only piece that can not be taken off the board when captured. Whenever a player can capture his opponent's King, he does nothing but says"Check"-the King is then said to be in "Check". Whereupon his owner tries to free him from Check, in one of the three possible ways.

1. By capturing the posing check piece

2. By moving the King into an adjacent square, free from Check.

3. By moving one of his pieces to interpose between the King and the Checking Piece-thus intercepting the Check.

Unless a player can free his King in one of these three ways, his King is CHECKMATED and the opponent thereby wins the game.

The game may be declared a draw under the following circumstances

1. Stalemate – when the player to move is not in check but has no legal moves.

2. Threefold repetition - When the same position occurs three times with the same player to move.

3. Fifty move rule – When the last fifty successive moves made by both players contains no capture or pawn move.

4. Dead position – When checkmate is not possible, because of certain minimum forces left on the board. (e.g. king and bishop against king)

5. By agreement, at any time of the game.