



COLUMNISTS

Chess Mazes

Bruce Alberston



Chess Mazes

In the fall of 2004, popular chess author Bruce Alberston released a book called *Chess Mazes*, designed to help students to develop their visualization and planning skills. *Chess Mazes* was an instant success and **ChessCafe** was delighted when Bruce agreed to offer a new *Chess Maze* puzzle each week.

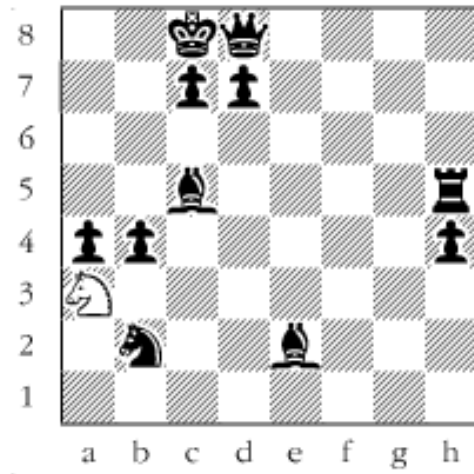
The concept is simple enough: The object is to place the black King in check in the shortest number of moves. The one restriction is that the white piece may not put itself *en prise*, i.e., on a square where it can be captured.

For those who may be interested in a more detailed introduction and overview to these puzzles, we invite you to take a look at the introduction from Bruce's book. Click [here](#) to read more, otherwise, we hope you enjoy this week's *Chess Maze* puzzle...

A Knight Maze

The white knight must put the black king in check without moving onto a square where it can be taken. Other than taking the knight, Black can't move. One other thing, only the shortest solution counts.

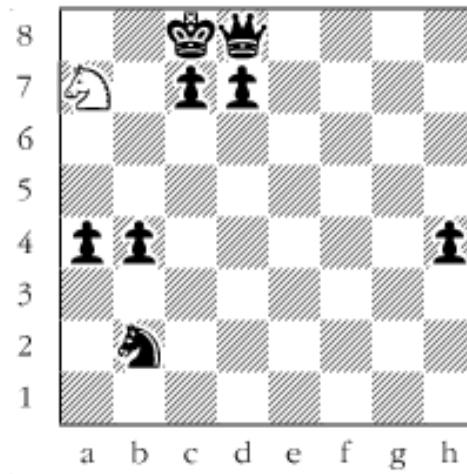
#14



Scroll down for the solution

The checking square is a7. Access comes after the removal of three key pieces. A bit of retracing is also required. 1. Nc2 2. Ne1 3. Ng2 4. Nf4 5. Nxe2 6. Nf4 7. Nxb5 Two down, one to go. 8. Nf4 9. Ng2 10. Ne1 11. Nf3 12. Nd2 13. Ne4 14. Nxc5 Now the knight can head to a7. 15. Ne4 16. Nd2 17. Nf3 18. Nd4 19. Nb5 20. Na7+

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