



C O L U M N I S T S

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.

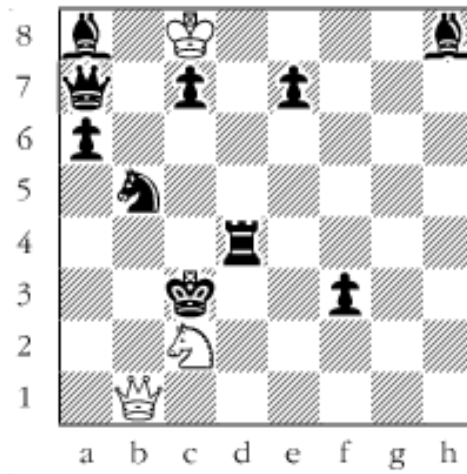
The concept is simple enough: The object is to place the black King in check in the shortest number of moves. The one restriction is that the white piece may not put itself *en prise*, i.e., on a square where it can be captured.

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 King, Queen & Knight Maze (Experimental)

White to construct a checkmate moving his king, queen, and knight. Black cannot move and White cannot place his pieces on capturable squares. Nor can he put Black in check. Try to find the shortest sequence of moves leading to mate.

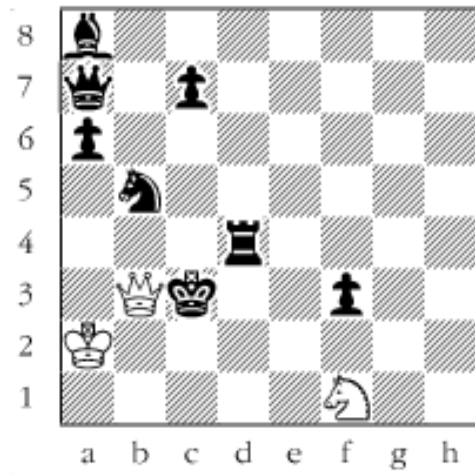
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Scroll down for the solution

The rook must be pinned and blocked out so the white king can reach its destination. 1. Ne3 2. Qh7 3. Qxh8 4. Ng4 5. Ne5 6. Nd7 7. Kd8 8. Kxe7 9. Ne5 10. Kf6 11. Kg5 12. Ng4 13. Kh4 14. Kg3 15. Kf2 16. Ke1 17. Ne3[h2] 18. Nf1 19. Nd2 20. Kd1 21. Kc1 22. Nf1 23. Kb1 24. Ka2 25. Qg8 26. Qb3#

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