



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.

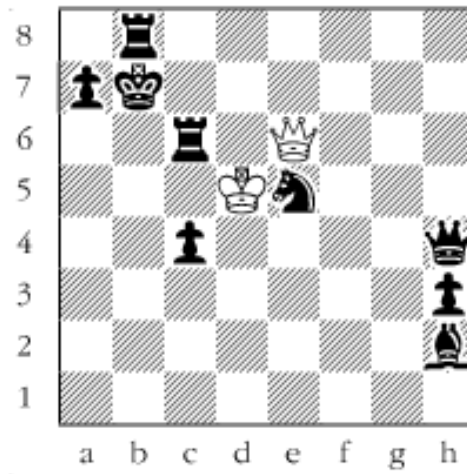
For those who may be interested in a more detailed introduction and overview to these puzzles, we invite you to take a look at the introduction from Bruce's book. Click [here](#) to read more, otherwise, we hope you enjoy this week's *Chess Maze* puzzle...

A Queen Maze

White to construct a checkmate moving only his queen. The white king is a helper and may not move. Neither can the black army move, unless it's to take the queen. So White should stay alert. Work efficiently and recall that no checks are allowed, only checkmate.

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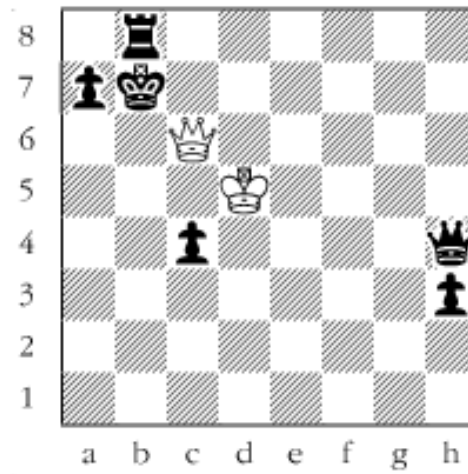




Scroll down for the solution

The most efficient solution is also the shortest, here brought about by taking bishop, knight, and rook in turn. 1. Qf5 2. Qc2 3. Qxh2 4. Qxe5 5. Qa1 6. Qa4 7. Qxc6#

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