



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.

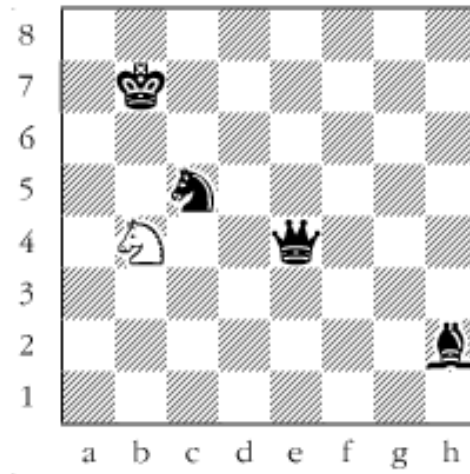
The concept is simple enough: The object is to place the black King in check in the shortest number of moves. The one restriction is that the white piece may not put itself *en prise*, i.e., on a square where it can be captured.

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 cannot go to a square where it can be taken. Otherwise Black can't move. The goal is to check the king in the fewest number of moves.

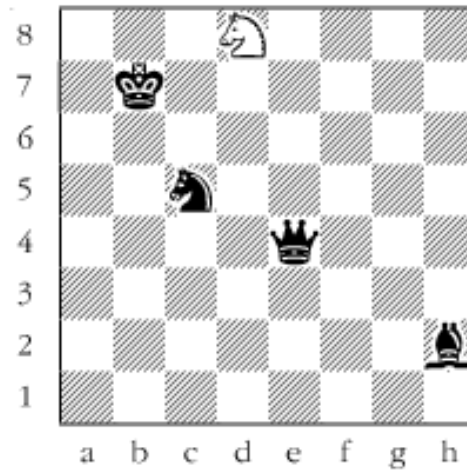
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Scroll down for the solution

Of the potential checking squares, c5 occupied, and a5 unattainable. But d8 is open and d6 may become open if the bishop can be removed. On further thought the bishop can't be removed. So, 1. Na2 2. Nc3 3. Nd1 4. Nf2 5. Nh3 6. Ng5 7. Nf7 8. Nd8+

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