

A Safe Journey Home

Your group must construct a chess “journey” for other teams to solve!
(Groups are composed of 2 or more students depending on the size of the class.)

Instructions:

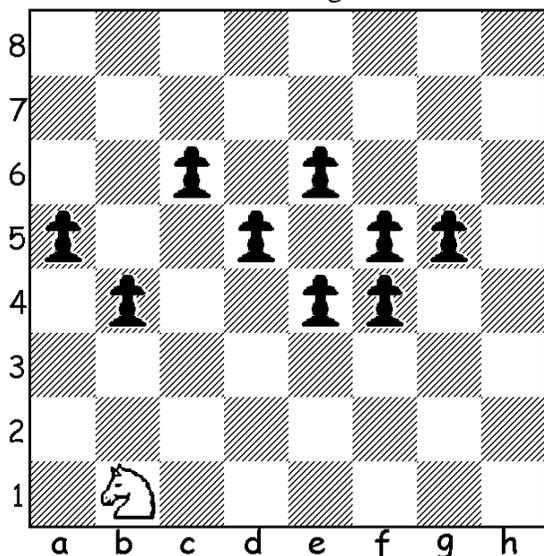
1. Create a “journey” for a selected chess piece to travel to reach the “home square.”
2. Keep a record of the steps you took to create your chess journey.
3. Record the route (or routes) for the piece using chess notation.
4. You will have 10 minutes to create your chess journey.
5. Each team will then rotate around the room with 5 minutes to solve each journey created by the other teams.
6. After the groups have attempted to solve all the challenges:
 - a. Share your solution(s) and the steps you followed in order to create the problem.
 - b. Share how you tried to make the problem more complex.
 - c. Share one chess concept that is important in solving the journey.
 - d. Share the challenges you encountered in creating the journey as a team rather than as an individual.
 - e. Share how this process of working as a group could be applied to other subjects.

Rules for the journey:

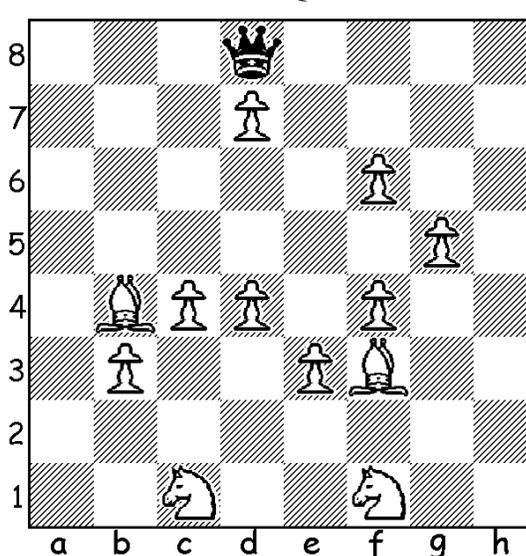
1. One piece must cross from one side of the board to another (any direction).
2. A destination “home square” must be given to the teams trying to solve the problem.
3. The “travelling” piece must not land on the opposing pieces or on any squares that are attacked/controlled by the opposing pieces. If the King is the travelling piece, it may not put itself into check.
4. Any number of opposing pieces of any kind may be placed on the board but they do not move.

Below are some examples of journeys.

Get the White Knight to f8



Get the Black Queen to f2



Concepts Covered Include:

1. Piece movement
2. Notation
3. Attacking/Controlling squares
4. Perspective
5. Metacognitive reflection
6. Application to other subject areas

This lesson has been used with teachers who teach elementary students.

A variation of this lesson has been used with elementary age students.

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