

Chess Notation

Chess notation allows you to record your game and play over it later so as to improve your play, or appreciate your game later. You also are required to take notation in most official chess tournaments, so it's great to get a firm handle on it as you start to play. The pieces are abbreviated to the following letters:

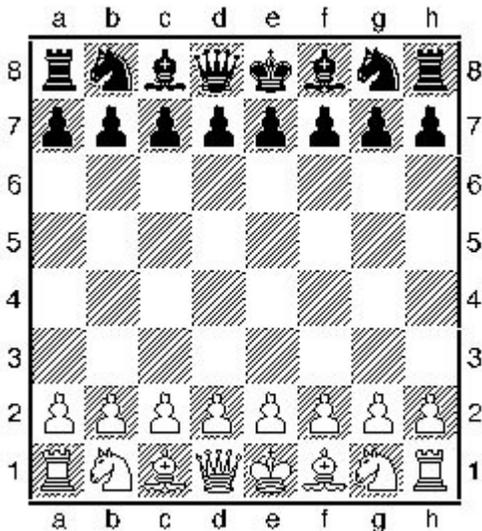
King- K

Queen-Q

Rook- R

Bishop- B

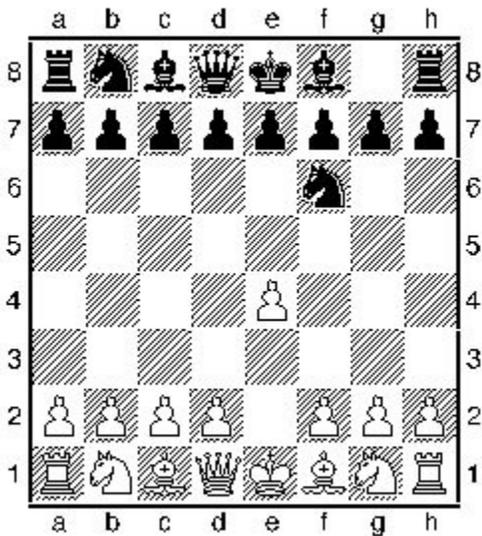
Knight- N (the second letter is used to avoid confusion with the King)



To record a move, you simply use the symbol of the piece followed by the square that it moves to.

The pawn has no symbol. To record the move of a pawn, you write the square it moves to. Because every other piece has a symbol, everyone will know you mean the pawn.

For instance, the most popular first move (played in the diagram below) is recorded as e4.



Black's response is called the Alekhine Opening, named after the former world champion. It is recorded as Nf6.

Other symbols

Castling- 0-0

Queenside castling- 0-0-0

Capture- x (i.e. BxNf6 means bishop captures knight on f6)

Check- +

Checkmate- ++ OR #

White wins- 1-0

Black wins- 0-1

d pawn promotes to a queen- d8=Q

Good move- !

Bad move- ?

Brilliant, soul searing move- !!

Blunder- ??

Interesting move!?

Dubious move?!

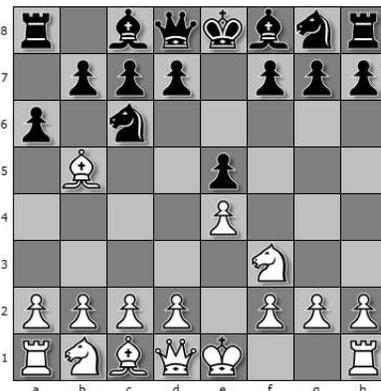
What follows is a series of moves to show you how chess notation works. Setup the chess board and see if you can reach the position at the end. Good luck!

Here is the first moves 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6



Your board should look like this.

3. Bg5 a6



Your board should look like this

4. Ba4 Nf6



Your board should look like this.

5. O-O Be7



Your board should look like this

6. Qe2 d6



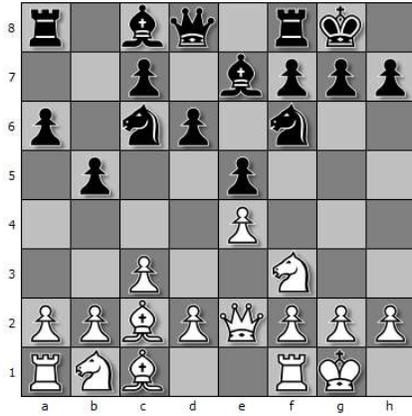
Your board should look like this.

7. c3 b5



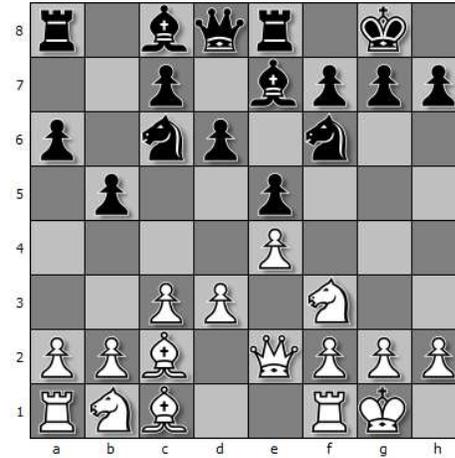
Your board should look like this.

8. Bc2 O-O



Your board should look like this

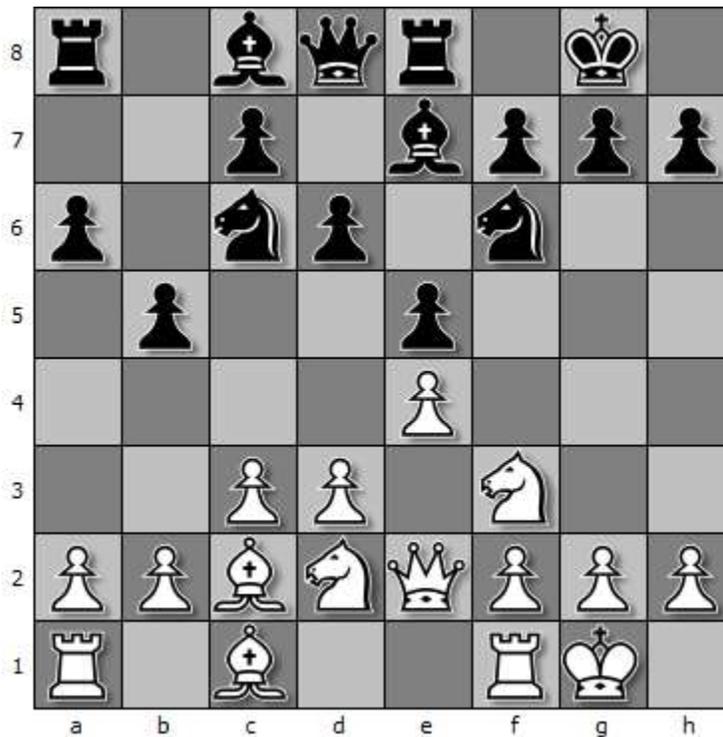
9. d3 Re8



Your board should look like this

10. Nbd2 (specify when 2 of the same piece can move to the same square)

This should be the position you reach.



Congratulations if you made it to the end correctly!