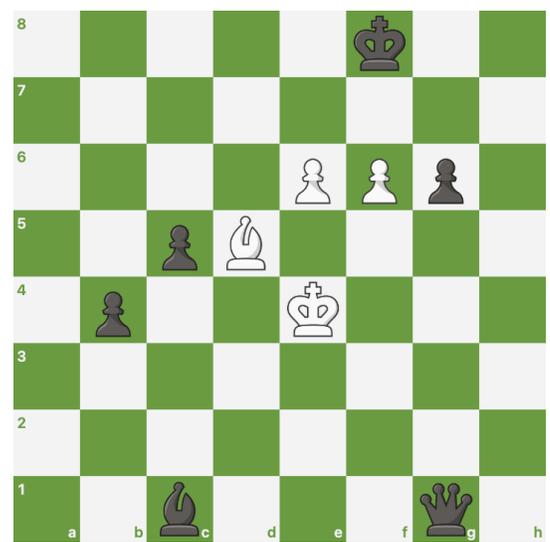


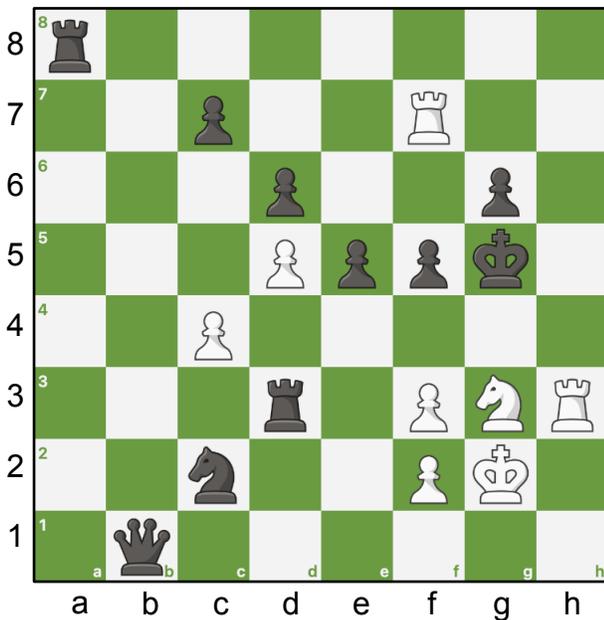
## 90. The Balestra Mate

White has a forced mate in 7 in this position. However, even the slightest mistake will hand the game over to black. Join us to learn about a mating pattern called the Balestra Mate which is named after an explosive lunge technique in fencing.

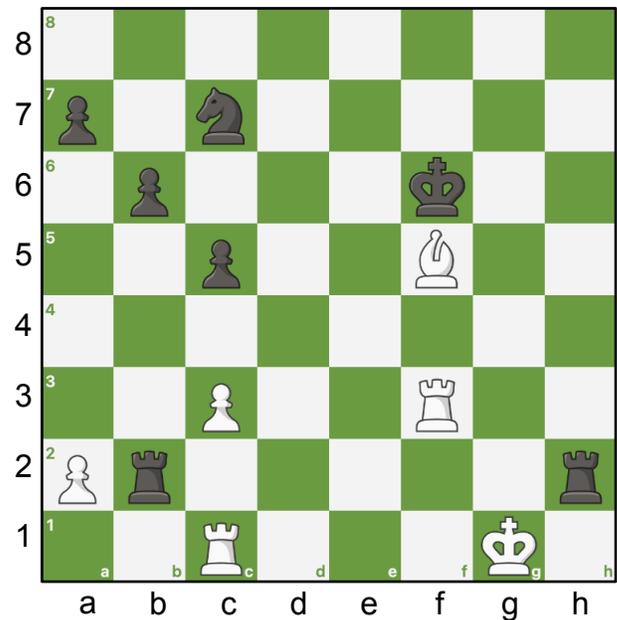


## Challenge Puzzles

① White to play - Find best move.



② White to play - Find best move.



## Hints.

- ① Start with a rook.
- ② Start with the bishop.

## Answers.

- ① 1. ♖h5+ ♟gxf5 2. ♖g7+ ♔f4 3. ♞xh5#
- ② 1. ♗c2+ ♔e6 2. ♔xh2

