

Chess

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Chess

Welcome

Chess is an ancient strategy game that originated in India. It is played by two individuals on an 8×8 grid. The objective is to maneuver one's pieces so as to trap the opposing king in "checkmate". This book will cover the basic pieces of chess, before going on to some more advanced topics.

The history of chess began in India during the Gupta Empire where its early form in the 6th century was known as *chaturanga*, which translates as "four divisions of the military" – infantry, cavalry, elephants, and chariotry, represented by the pieces that would evolve into the modern pawn, knight, bishop, and rook, respectively. In Sassanid Persia around 600 the name became *shatranj* and the rules were developed further. Shatranj was taken up by the Muslim world after the Islamic conquest of Persia, with the pieces largely retaining their Persian names. In Spanish "shatranj" was rendered as *ajedrez*, in Portuguese as *xadrez*, and in Greek as *zatrikion*, but in the rest of Europe it was replaced by versions of the Persian *shāh* ("king").



Some chess pieces: (from left to right) a white king, a black rook, a black queen, a white pawn, a black knight, and a white bishop

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- [Chess Opening Theory](#) treats the chess openings in much more detail.
- [Chess Strategy](#) provides a more detailed understanding of chess strategy.

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