Let the Whole Board Sing

A free chess sing-along kit for classrooms, clubs and families

In the song, Grandpa King teaches the little Pawn how every chess piece moves, how to set up the board and what checkmate means. Grown-ups sing the orange lines, children sing the blue ones, and everyone sings the rainbow choruses.

A 20-MINUTE LESSON

1. **Watch and sing (5 minutes).** Play the video on the class screen. Hand out the lyric sheet (pages 2 and 3); split the room into "grown-ups" and "children" for the second play.
2. **Set up a real board (5 minutes).** Sing the "Setting up the board" verse slowly while the children place the pieces: rooks in the corners, then knights, bishops, the queen on her own colour, the king, then the pawns.
3. **Worksheet (8 minutes).** Page 4: colour the squares each piece can reach. The answers are on page 5.
4. **Colouring (early finishers).** Page 6: the six Sing-Along pieces to colour in.

Grown-ups: the song and the app. Scan the code or go to **stillwareltd.com/sing**.

The Sing-Along pieces live in RankUp Chess, an offline chess academy with voiced lessons, puzzles and friendly bots: no ads, no chat, no account to play. Classroom licences for Windows and Mac computers are free (up to 30 profiles per computer, with a lesson plan for every land): write to support@stillwareltd.com.

A grown-up's guide to the app, to read or print: **stillwareltd.com/rankupchess/guide**

Free to print and share for non-commercial classroom and home use

Let the Whole Board Sing

Grown-ups sing orange **Children sing blue** **Everyone sings the rainbow choruses**

INTRODUCTION

Come here, little one... shall I teach you chess?

Yes please, Grandpa!

SIXTY-FOUR SQUARES

Sixty-four squares on a board, dark and light,
With a light corner square at the bottom right,
Two little armies, all lined up in rows,
Each piece is different, and here's how it goes!

CHORUS

Pawn and Knight and Bishop,
Rook and Queen and King!
Each has its own special way to move,
And together they make the game sing!

THE PAWN

The Pawn is like dawn, it's where morning begins,
It only moves forward, and never gives in,
One step at a time, on its first go, take two!
And it captures on slants, just one square, as pawns do.

THE KNIGHT

The Knight is a night with a K at the start,
A horse that can leap, and that's the trickiest part!
Two squares, then a turn, in the shape of an L,
The only one jumping, and oh, it jumps well!

THE BISHOP

The Bishop's tall hat is the shape of a drop,
It zooms on the slant till a piece makes it stop,
Corner to corner, like a slide in the park,
It stays on its colour, the light or the dark!

THE ROOK

Look at the Rook, it's a tower of stone,
It starts in the corner, the corner's its home,
It runs in straight lines like a train on a track,
Up, down, and sideways, and all the way back!

CHORUS

Pawn and Knight and Bishop,
Rook and Queen and King!
Each has its own special way to move,
And together they make the game sing!

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Let the Whole Board Sing (continued)

THE QUEEN

The Queen is the strongest, so graceful and free,
Straight lines or slanting, as far as can be,
She's a Rook and a Bishop, both rolled into one,
So keep her safe early, the game's just begun!

THE KING

The King's very slow, just one square any way,
Like Grandpa in slippers at the end of the day,
But he matters the most: trapped in check? That's checkmate!
So guard yours, and catch theirs, before it's too late!

SETTING UP THE BOARD

Rooks in the corners, then Knights by their side,
Bishops come next with their hats held with pride,
The Queen on her colour, the King takes the last,
And the Pawns fill the front row, standing brave, standing fast!

SIX KINDS OF PIECES

Just six kinds of pieces on sixty-four squares,
Yet more games to play than the stars way up there,
Each game is a story that's new, never told,
So set up the board, let the next one unfold!

THE SECRET

Now here is a secret, the best one of all:
The Pawn may be little, the Pawn may be small,
But step after step, if it reaches the end,
It can grow to a Queen, so keep marching, my friend.

FINAL CHORUS

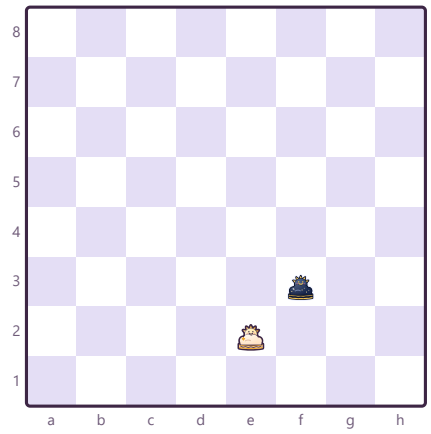
Pawn and Knight and Bishop,
Rook and Queen and King!
Even the smallest can wear a crown,
So come, let the whole board sing!
So come, let the whole board sing!
Your move, Grandpa!

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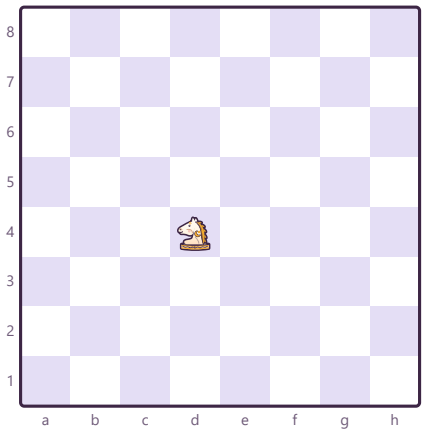
How does each piece move?

Name: _____ Colour the squares. Sing the song to help you remember!

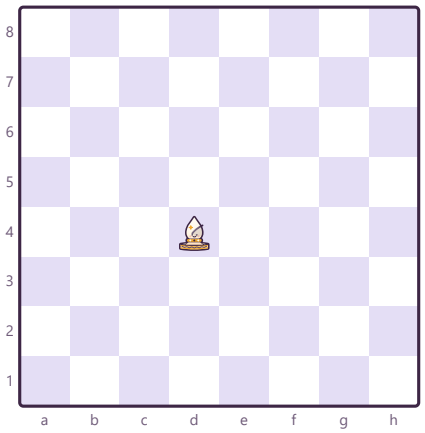
Colour the squares the Pawn can move to. Circle the piece it can capture.



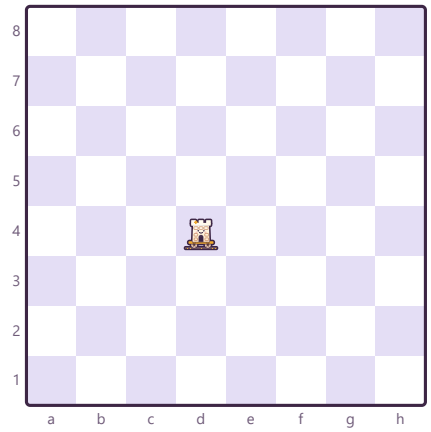
Colour every square the Knight can jump to.



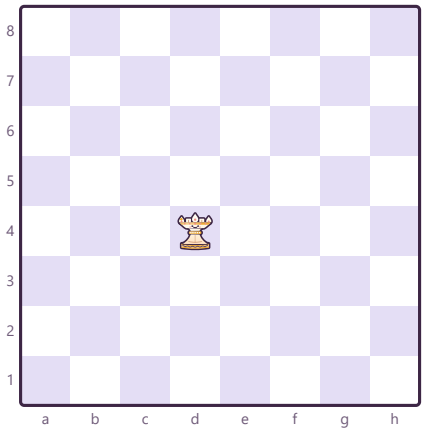
Colour every square the Bishop can slide to.



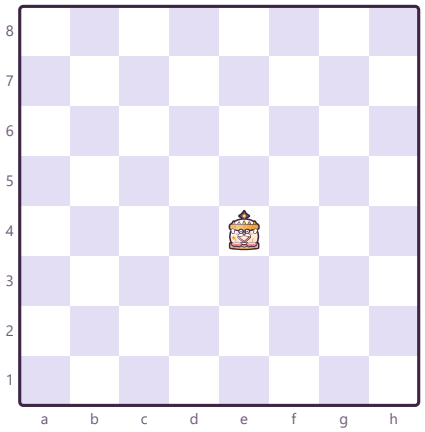
Colour every square the Rook can run to.



Colour every square the Queen can reach.



Colour every square the King can step to.

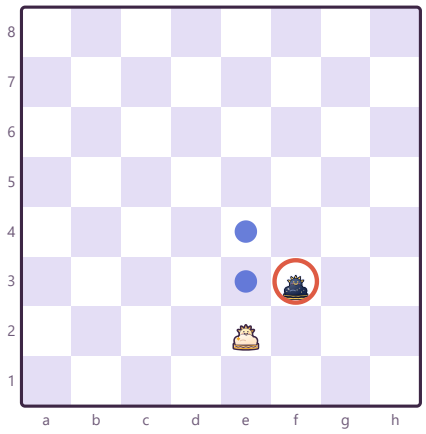


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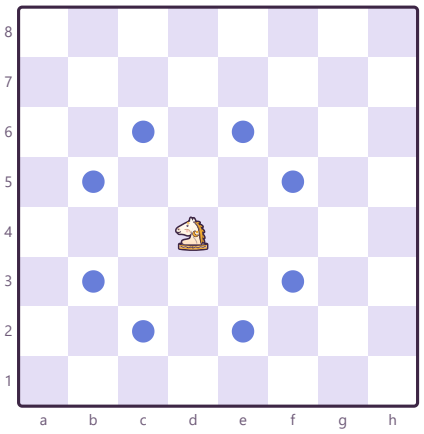
Answers

The blue dots show every square each piece can reach. The red ring is the piece the Pawn can capture.

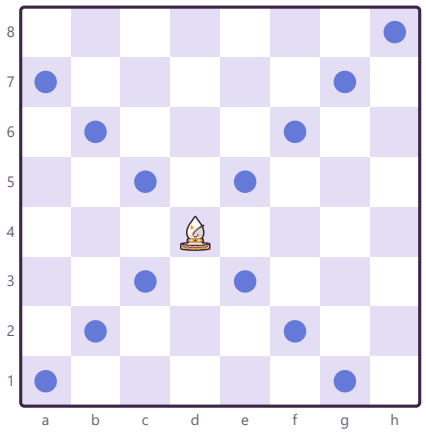
Pawn: 2 squares and one capture



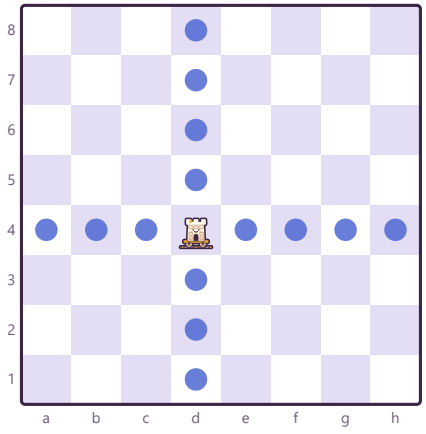
Knight: 8 squares



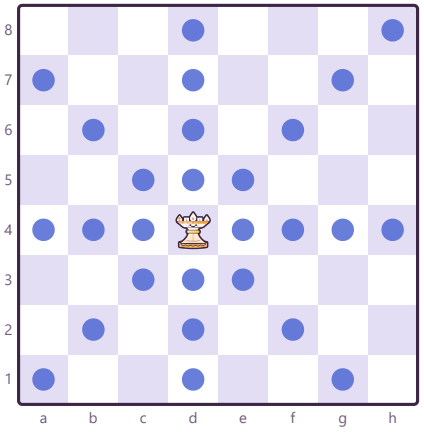
Bishop: 13 squares



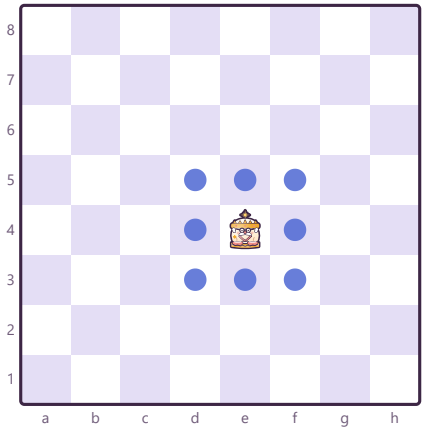
Rook: 14 squares



Queen: 27 squares



King: 8 squares



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Colour the Sing-Along pieces

Grandpa King, the little Pawn and their friends.



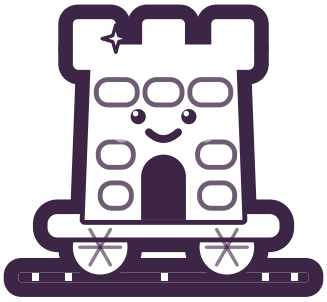
Pawn



Knight



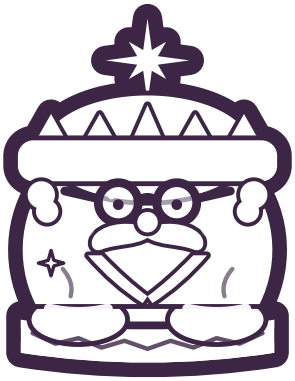
Bishop



Rook



Queen



King

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