

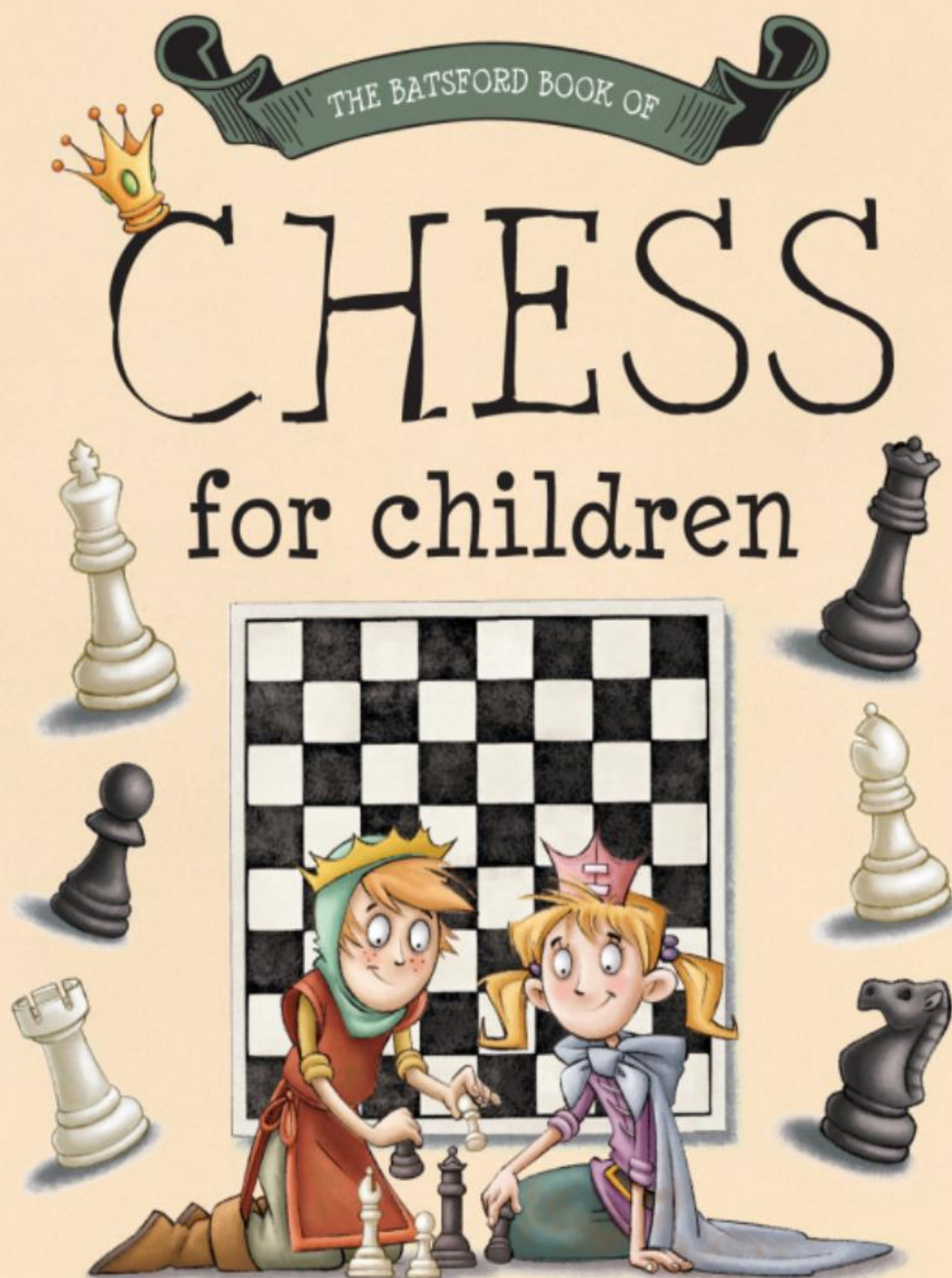
THE BATSFORD BOOK OF

CHESS

for children



Sabrina Chevannes



Sabrina Chevannes

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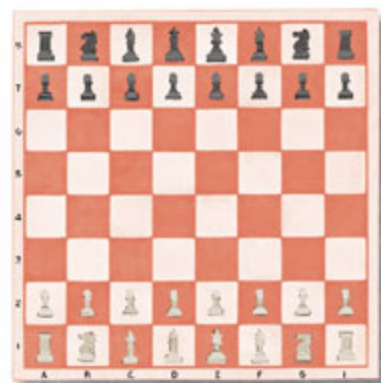
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Chess for Children



About the Author

Sabrina Chevannes is an outstanding young chess player and teacher. She started playing chess at 8 years old and has won 10 British chess titles. She teaches chess in many schools in the London area, has coached the England junior chess team, and organises chess tournaments such as the National Girls' Chess Championships, the English Women's Rapidplay and the Richmond Rapidplay.



Chess for Children

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BATSFORD

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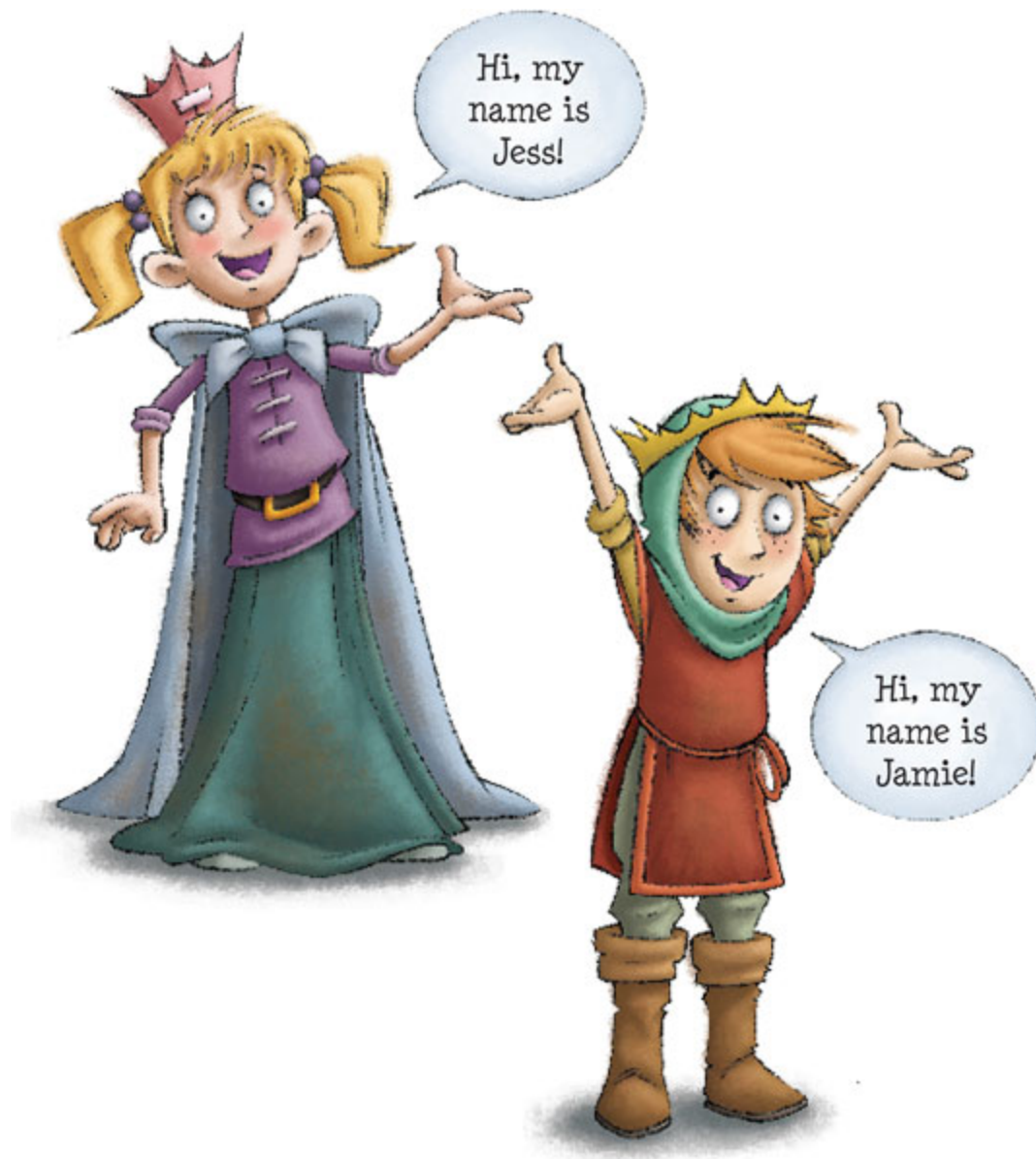
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Introduction



And we're going to teach you everything we know about chess!

Jamie: Chess is our favourite game in the world, and we want everyone to learn how to play so they can play with us. So, in this book, we'll tell you everything we know about chess and, by the time you finish reading, you will be as good at it as us!

Jess: I love chess because it's a game that lots of really clever people play. So everyone says I'm really clever because I'm good at chess.

Jamie: I love chess because I like fighting games. I know it's not nice to fight with other people, so I fight over the chessboard!

Jess: Chess helps me to calculate and think properly, so it also helps me with my schoolwork! My memory has got much better since playing chess, and I can work out problems in a much better way now, too!

Jamie: I just like to win! Winning makes me feel good. Since chess is a battle of the minds, if I beat someone at chess, it makes me feel like I'm cleverer than them, and that's a good feeling!

Jess: Chess is a battle game between two armies - the white and black armies.



They have to fight against each other in order to trap the other army's king and take over their kingdom.

Jamie: Yeah, and the person who does this first gets to shout 'CHECKMATE' and they win the game!

Jess: But we don't shout, though, Jamie, remember? Chess is supposed to be a quiet game.

Jamie: Oh, I keep forgetting that! Shhhhhhhh!

Jess: Chess has been around for hundreds and hundreds of years and still has never been mastered. This is one of the things that makes the game so fantastic!

Jamie: Chess originated in India before 500AD, then the Persians heard about it and started playing it, too. Chess didn't make its way over to Europe until about the 12th century, and then we started playing competitive chess only in the 1800s.

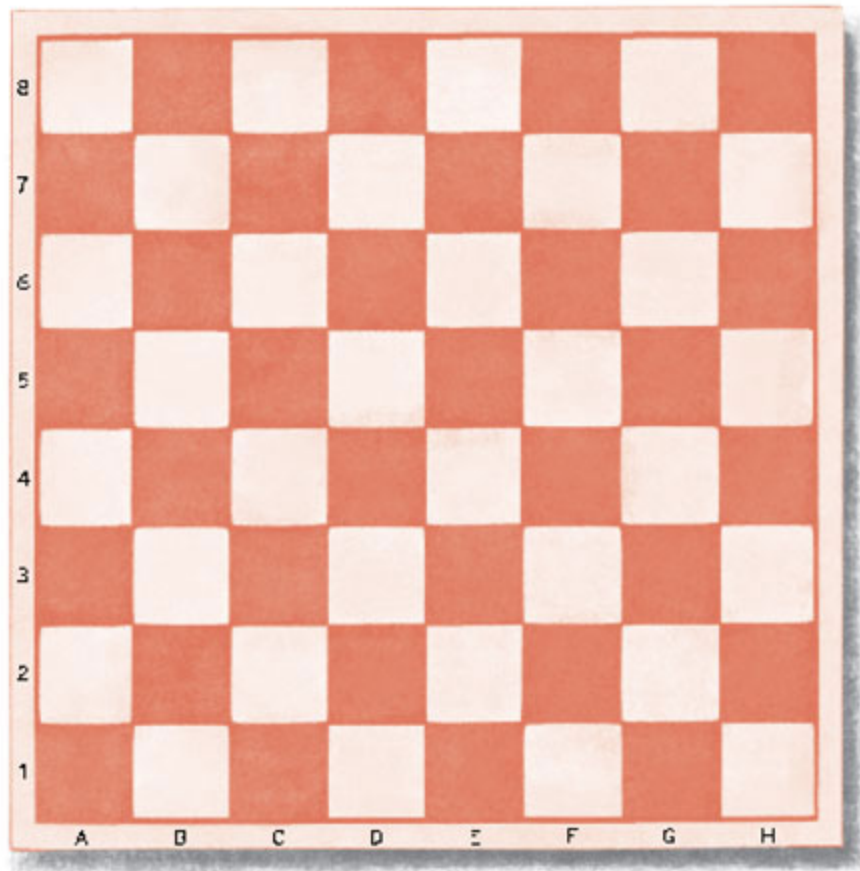
Wow! You know
a lot about the
history of chess,
Jamie!

Well, it is my
favourite game!
Let's learn
more about the
battlefield.



The Battlefield

The chess battlefield is known as the chessboard. It's square in shape and split into little light and dark squares:



Jamie: The chessboard has 64 little squares, to be precise. I know this because there are eight squares along the bottom and eight squares up the sides. $8 \times 8 = 64$!

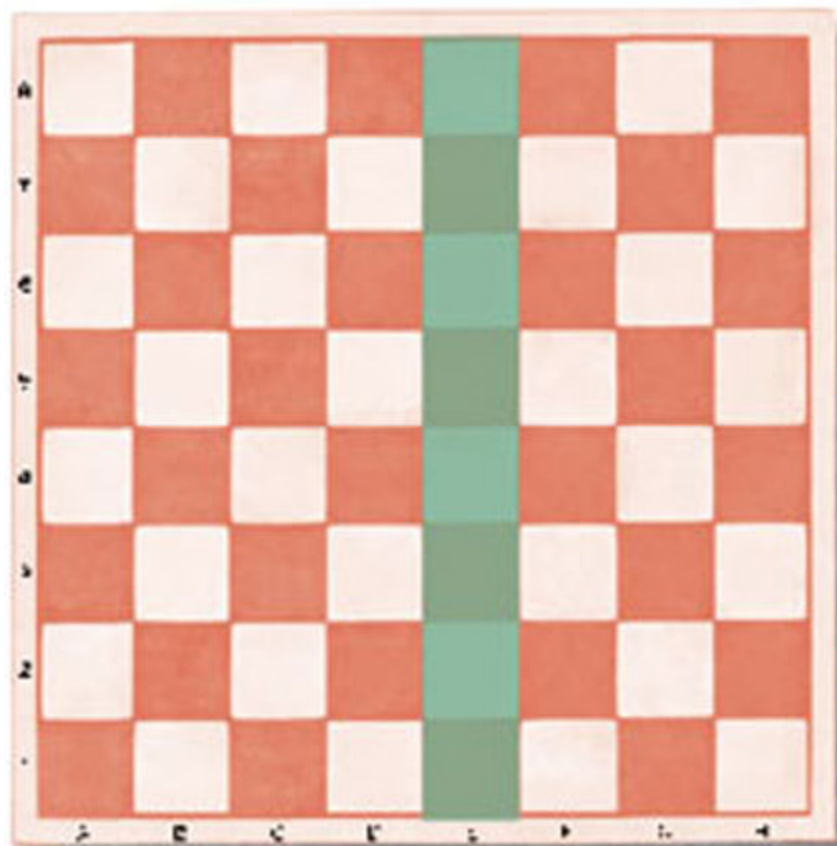
Jess: OK smartypants, that's very clever, but did you know that the lines up and down the chessboard have special names? So do the ones that go across the chessboard.

Jamie: Yeah, they are called rows.

Jess: No they are not. You can *call* them rows, but in chess, we use special names for them. The ones that go up and down the board are called **files** and are named after letters.

Jamie: I've heard that word before. When the teachers tell us to line up outside, they ask us to stand in single file!

Jess: Yes, exactly. You see the one highlighted here? This one is called the e-file, because it is all the squares above the letter e on the chessboard.

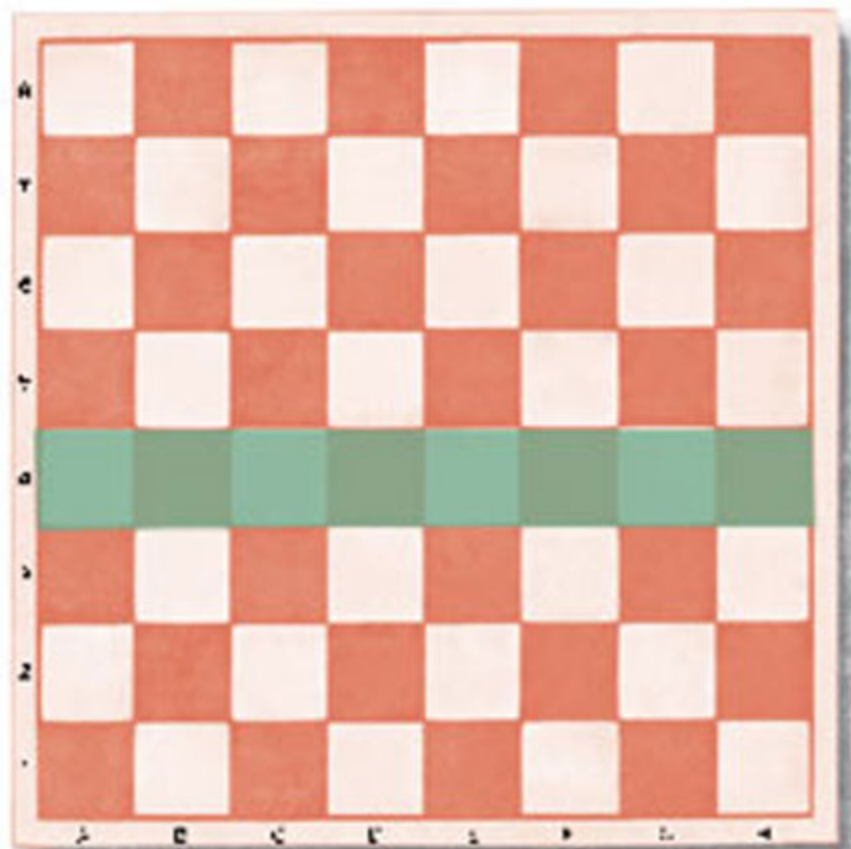


Jamie: Ah yes, because we have letters and numbers on the sides of our chessboards to help us name the squares.

Jess: We'll get to that in a minute, Jamie, but do you know what the rows across the chessboard are called?

Jamie: No! I thought they were just called rows.

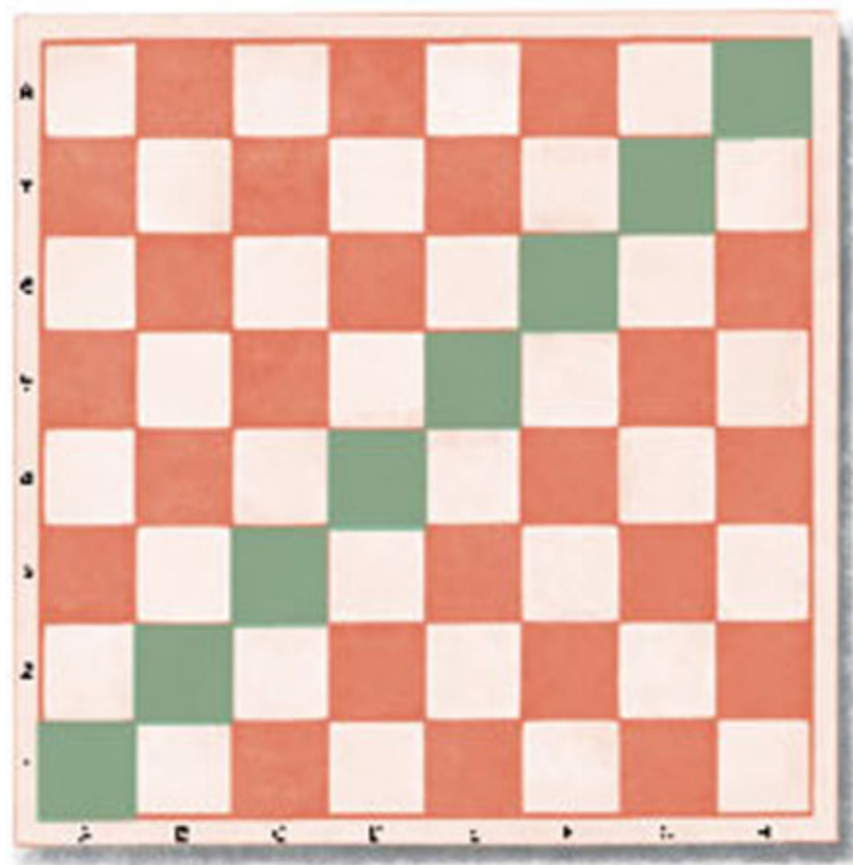
Jess: No, they are called **ranks** and they are named after numbers.



Jamie: So the rank in the diagram is called the 4th rank, because the squares that are highlighted are all on the row with the number 4 by it.

Jess: Exactly - nice and easy! There's another line on the chessboard we often describe. This one goes at an angle and is called a **diagonal**.

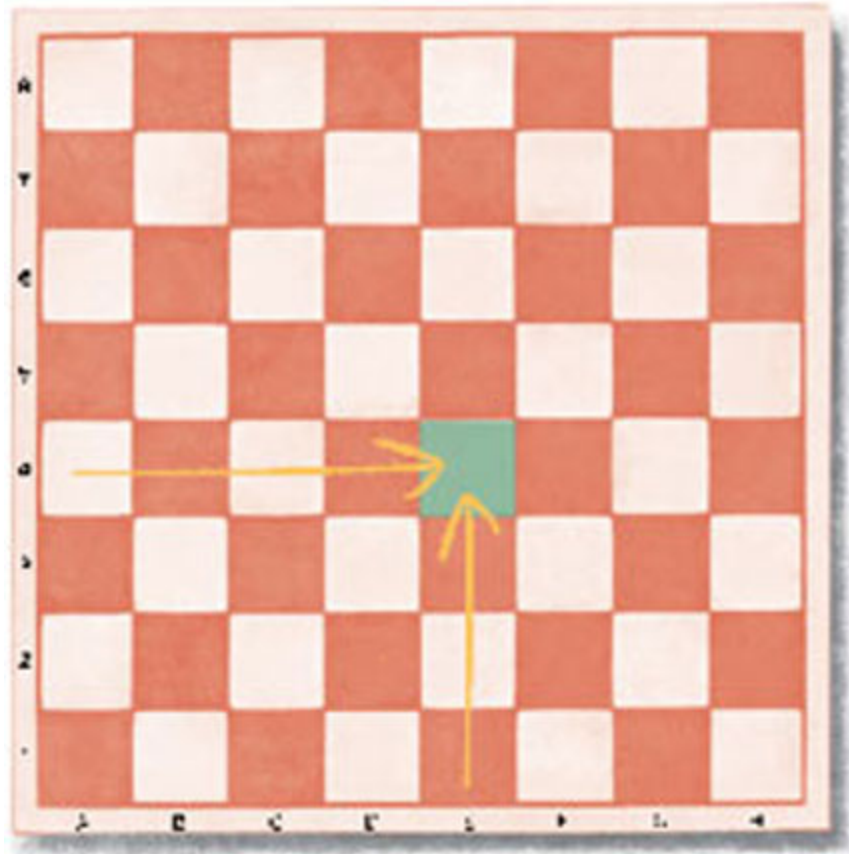
Jamie: And we call this diagonal the a1-h8 diagonal because of the squares that it passes through.



Jess: What do you mean a1-h8? Why this?

Jamie: They are the names of the squares! Each square has its own name, represented by one letter and one number, which are called the co-ordinates. In this diagram, to work out which square is highlighted, first I'd look at the bottom of the board to see which letter the

square is above. Then I'd follow the row to the side of the board to see which number row it is, and would discover that the co-ordinate of the square is e4.



Jess: Ah yes, I remember now! They're like the postcodes of each of the squares. I think of the squares as little homes for the pieces, and that their co-ordinate is their address.

Jamie: Whatever works for you, Jess! Just remember that it's important to be able to understand chess co-ordinates, because this is how all games are recorded and how chess professionals talk to each other. So you must be able to master chess co-ordinates if you want to understand what these people mean!

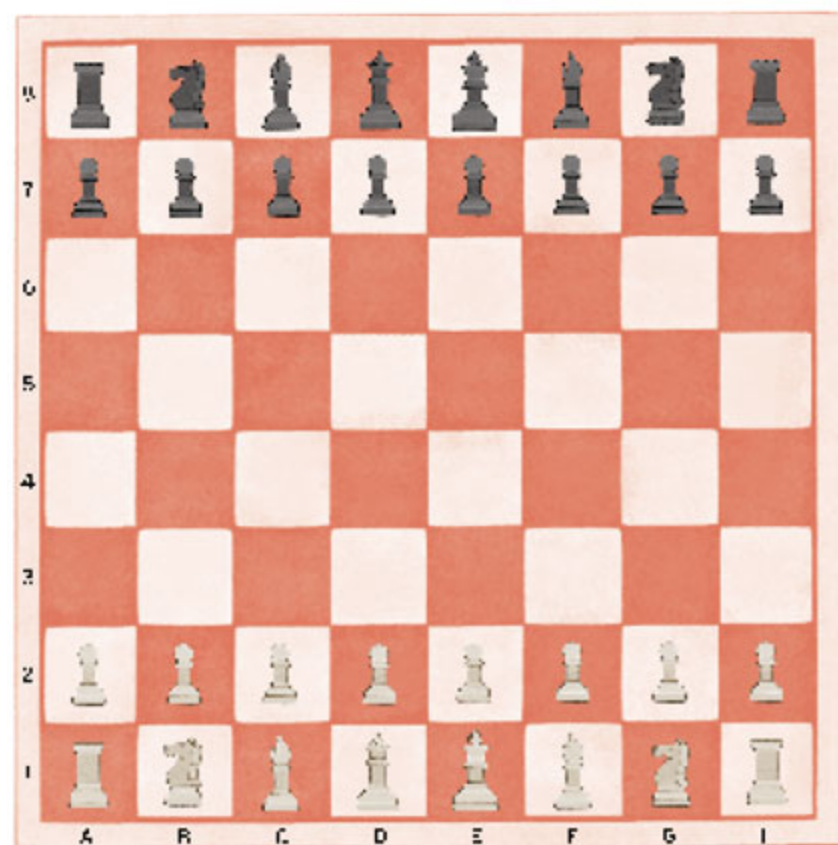
Jess: All of this terminology – rank, file, diagonal, the coordinates, is **chess language**. We'll use these terms throughout the book.

Jamie: What about how we set up the board? I want to know how to do that before we start.

Jess: Well, we'll come to that later. We don't know what all the pieces are yet!

Jamie: OK, but I'm going to include a diagram of what the starting position looks like, just in case we need it.



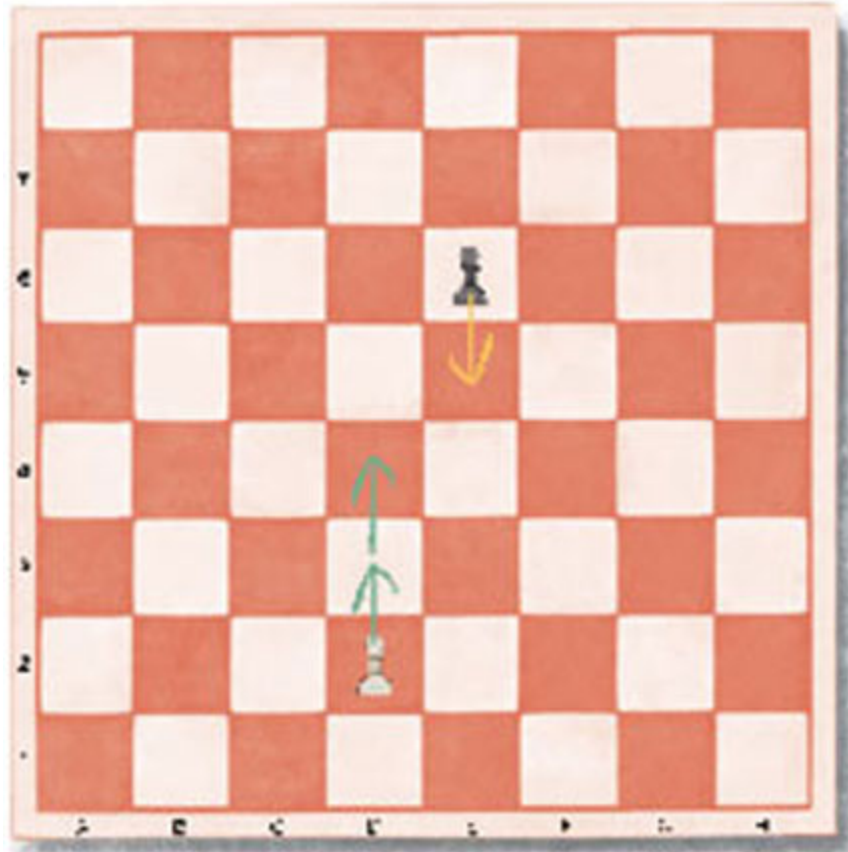


The Pawn





Jamie: The pawn is the smallest soldier in our chess army. He doesn't get to move very far, and can only go forward. He usually only moves one square at a time, but on his very first move, he can choose to move two squares if he wants to. Once he has moved, he can definitely only go one square at a time after that. Look:



You see that the white pawn hasn't moved yet, because he's on his starting position. Well, he can choose to move either one square or two squares - to either d3 or d4. But the black pawn has already moved, so he doesn't have a choice and can only move forward by one square.

Jess: Why is the black pawn going backward? I thought you said they can only go forward?!

Jamie: It IS going forward! Remember, the two armies play toward each other, so the black army will be going forward toward the 1st rank, and the white army will be going forward toward the 8th rank.