The Historic New Orleans Collection presents

Play Chess with Paul Morphy

Lesson 2, Instruction
The Chess Board (Review)

- Chess is a game of battle played out over 64 squares.
- 32 warriors are divided into two opposing armies, each led by a king.
- The victor is the army that traps and prevents the escape of the opposing king.

“Battle of Issus” chess set, 20th century
(courtesy M. S. Rau Antiques)
The Chess Board and Pieces

Name and Value of Pieces

- **King** = Infinity
- **Queen** = 9 points
- **Rook** = 5 points
- **Bishop** = 3 points
- **Knight** = 3 points
- **Pawn** = 1 point
In this lesson, we will go over the bishop piece. The bishop moves diagonally along the chessboard. It can be used to attack opponent pieces and protect its own pieces depending on the manner in which it moves. Its value is usually considered to be three points.
Each army contains two bishops, one that moves along light squares and one dark.

Each bishop has the responsibility of attacking enemy pieces or protecting its own.

From d5 (left), the light-square bishop can move along the diagonal that stretches from h1 to a8, and from a2 to g8.
Bishop Movement

From d4 (left), the dark-square bishop can move along the diagonal that stretches from a1 to h8, and from g1 to b7.

The bishops can control 10 squares each in the example shown. The 20 red dots represent each legal square that the bishop can move to.
In this example, if it was the light-square bishop’s (d5) turn, it would be able to move to any square with a red dot.

Note: there are three pawns of the opposing army located on squares where the bishop can capture them.

A bishop can capture enemy pieces that lie in its path.
The light-square bishop on d5 (fig. 1) captures the pawn on f7 (fig. 2).
Bishop Attack

The light-square bishop on d5 (fig. 1) captures the pawn on c4 (fig. 3).
The light-square bishop on d5 (fig. 1) captures the pawn on g2 (fig. 4).
The Game of Pawn Mower

Rules:

- Can you use the bishop on d1 to mow (capture) all four pawns in just four moves?
- Remember, a bishop moves diagonally in any direction. It can only capture one piece at a time.
- If you need to take two moves to capture a pawn, you have the wrong path; start over.
The Game of Pawn Mower

Answer Key:

You can capture each pawn by moving up to the right, then up to the left, then down to the left, and finally up to the left.

Four pawns, four moves. Using algebraic notation, the sequence of moves is h5, e8, c6, and a8.
More Pawn Mower (Bishop) Exercises

- Try solving this pawn mower problem. Five pawns, five moves.
- If possible, use algebraic notation to fill in the answer below.
- Clue: the third move has already been filled in for you.

1.___, 2.___, 3._g8, 4.___, 5.___
More Pawn Mower (Bishop) Exercises

1) __, 2) __, 3) b4, 4) __, 5) __, 6) __

1) __, 2) __, 3) c8, 4) __, 5) __, 6) __
More Pawn Mower (Bishop) Exercises

1) __, 2) __, 3) __, 4) __, 5) __, 6) __, 7) __

1) __, 2) __, 3) __, 4) __, 5) __, 6) __, 7) __, 8) __, 9) __
Answer Key

Slide 13: g4, e6, g8, d5, g2
Slide 14, left: d8, e7, b4, f8, h6, f4
Slide 14, right: d3, f5, c8, h3, g2, a8
Slide 15, left: f8, b4, d2, h6, g7, e5, b8
Slide 15, right: a4, d7, h3, c8, b7, f3, d1, b3, c4
Congratulations! You’ve finished lesson 2.

In lesson 3, we’ll look at chess during the Renaissance and leading up to the birth of Paul Morphy. For the instruction portion, we’ll be focusing on the role of queen.

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Happy practicing!

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