

Lesson 1

The Pawn Game

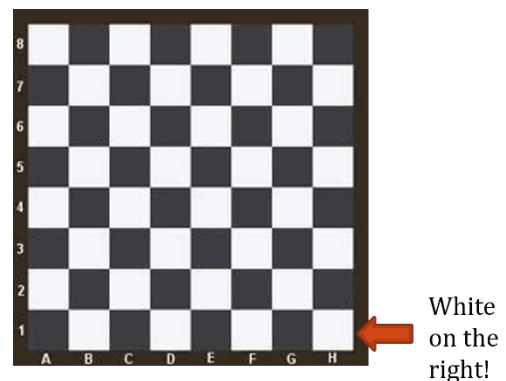
The Basics

As this is your first chess lesson it is required of the chess teacher to outline some chess basics. These are:

- Chess players show respect by shaking hands before and after games
- Only one piece can be on a square at any one time
- The 'white player' plays first and then players take turns until the game is finished (a player cannot 'pass' their turn)

The Board – white on the right

The first piece of chess equipment which needs to be understood is the board. It must be placed on the table in a specific manner – “white on the right”. The right-most square on the first row for both players must be white.



Note: we will now teach the first chess piece. It is helpful for students to remember that each piece has three rules to be understood:

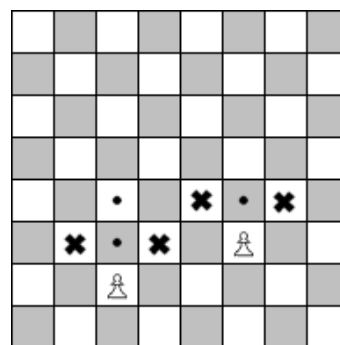
1. where the piece starts on the board
2. how the pieces moves; and
3. how the piece captures others

This teaching structure will be referred to in teaching each piece.

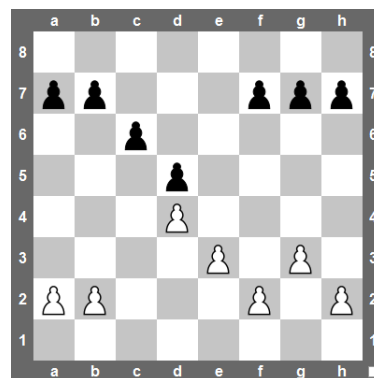
The Pawn (the foot soldier)

Each player gets 8 pawns to start with:

1. The pawns start on the second row for each player (ranks 2 and 7)
2. The pawn can only move forward – never backwards or sideways. In usual play it only moves forward 1 square per turn. On each pawns' first move, it has the choice of moving one square forward or two squares forward. After its' first move the pawn is only allowed to move one square forward per turn in general play. See dotted square in illustration.
3. Pawns can only capture other pieces by moving diagonally forward. A pawn can only move diagonally forward if another piece is there to be captured. See X squares in illustration.



Thinking Time: if pawns can only move forward and can only capture diagonally forward what will happen in the example on the right on the d file (white pawn is blocked by the black pawn). [Answer: the white d pawn cannot capture the black d pawn – these pawns are blocking each



other and neither can move. We call this a road block. Instead white must move any unblocked pawns.]

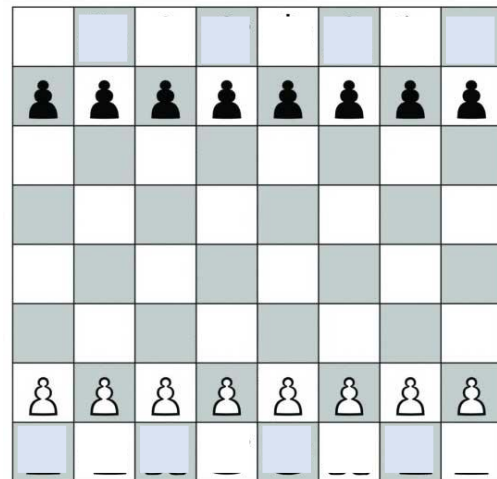
Key words: forwards, backwards, sideways, diagonally

Common misconceptions: only the first pawn moved gets to move two steps forward;

INCORRECT – every pawn has the choice of moving one or two squares forward on its' first move

The Pawn Game

The pawn game is set up as shown with 8 pawns against 8 pawns.



Aim: The first player to get one pawn to the other side of the board (i.e. rank 8 or rank 1) is the winner. If a student wins the pawn game ask both players to swap colours and play again.

Differentiation: Rotate players so that everyone gets a new partner to practice with. If a specific player is winning many games instruct the player to remove a pawn of their choice before starting the next game (this will mean 8 pawns against 7 pawns).

Touch-Move Rule: This is a simple but important rule of chess. If a player touches a piece he/she must move that piece (if it has a legal move to make). A player can lift a piece and place it back on the square where it was but that piece must be moved on that turn then. By extension, if a player touches their piece and touches their opponent's piece in a move to capture then the piece must be captured.

Note: the pawn can be a difficult piece to understand as it moves differently to how it captures. As students practice the pawn game circulate around the class and take note of the misconceptions students display. Discuss these in whole-group format using the demo board before allowing further time for students to practice the pawn game.