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CAN YOU PLAY CHESS?

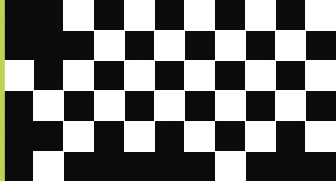
THE GAME

Chess is a game of thinking, planning and strategy. Two players have 16 chess pieces each: one king, one queen, two castles, two knights, two bishops and eight pawns. The pieces are black (or red) and white. The goal is to take, or capture, the other player's king. The players can say 'check' if a king can be attacked, which means 'be careful'. The game ends if the king can't escape the attack. This is called 'checkmate'.

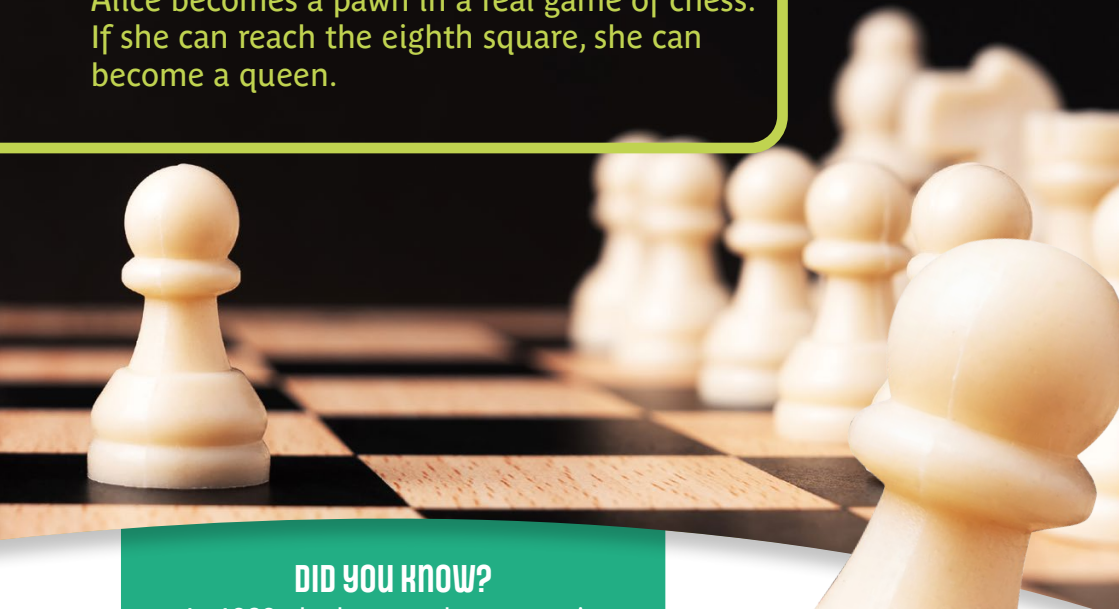
THE MOVES

A chessboard has 64 squares. Each piece makes different **moves** across the board. A pawn goes forward one square. Knights move in an 'L' shape. Queens move in any direction and many squares at a time. Kings also move in any direction, but only one square. If a pawn reaches the other side of the board, it becomes a queen — just like Alice in the story. There are more than 9 million possible moves after only three turns, so no two chess games are ever the same.

What other stories do you know that feature chess?



In *Through the Looking-glass*, Lewis Carroll's sequel to *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Alice meets the Red Queen, who shows her a valley* that looks like a giant chessboard. Alice becomes a pawn in a real game of chess. If she can reach the eighth square, she can become a queen.



DID YOU KNOW?

In 1989, the longest chess game in history lasted over 20 hours, and the players made 269 moves.

Checkmate!

'Checkmate' comes from the Persian term* 'Shāh Māt', which means 'the king is dead'. How do you say 'checkmate' in your language?

OVER TO YOU

'Fool's mate' is the term for the smallest number of moves it takes to win a game of chess. How many moves does 'fool's mate' need?

a ☐ two b ☐ twelve c ☐ twenty-two

GLOSSARY

- **attacked:** (here) taken
- **escape:** become free
- **forward:** in front of you
- **moves:** how one moves the pieces in a game
- **strategy:** careful planning
- **term:** way to say something
- **valley:** land between hills

ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING-GLASS

The
White King

Alice

Haigha

Tweedledum

Tweedledee

The
Red King

**The
Red Knight**

**The
White Queen**

**The
White Knight**

**Humpty
Dumpty**

**The
Red Queen**

BEFORE READING

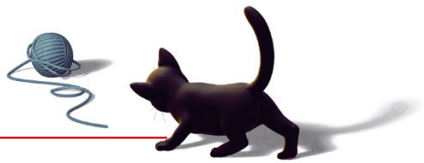
-  **1** Read and listen to the poem. Then choose (✓) which two of the characters below are in the poem.

*Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.
Humpty Dumpty had a big fall.
All the King's horses and all the King's men
Couldn't put Humpty Dumpty together again.*



- 2** Write the names of the characters under their pictures in Exercise 1.

Alice The Red Queen The White King
Humpty Dumpty Tweedledum and Tweedledee
Haigha



3 The words in the box are written the wrong way. Look at them in a mirror to read them the right way. Then write them correctly under the images.

unicorn

lion

crow

sheep

horsetail

goat



a



b



c



d



e



f

4 Match the creatures to their descriptions. Write the word.

a This animal is like a sheep. It usually has horns and a beard.

b An insect with small wings that bites horses, cows and people.

c A farm animal with lots of white wool on its body.
.....

d A big black bird that makes a loud cry.

e A large wild animal that makes a loud roar.

f A mythical creature, like a horse, with a horn on its head.
.....



1 The looking-glass house

 It was a cold, snowy day. Alice was sleeping in the big armchair. Dinah, the old cat, was sitting with Snowdrop, the white kitten. And Kitty, the black kitten, was playing with a ball of wool on the rug.

‘Oh, you’re a naughty• little thing!’ cried• Alice, when she woke up. She caught the black kitten and kissed• it. ‘Kitty, I was very angry• when I saw the wool,’ she said. ‘I nearly opened the window and put you outside in the snow!’ Then she gave Kitty another kiss. ‘Kitty, can you play chess?’ she asked. ‘Because, when we were playing, you were watching us. And when I said, “Check!” you purred•! Oh, Kitty, let’s pretend•.’ “Let’s pretend” were Alice’s favourite words.

‘Let’s pretend that you’re the Red Queen, Kitty. I think you look like• her. Oh, please try•!’

Then Alice took the Red Queen from the table, and she put her beside the kitten. But the kitten didn’t try. So Alice put it in front of the looking-glass. ‘You’re a very naughty kitten. I’m going to put you through the looking-glass. There’s a house inside the looking-glass,’ she said.

‘First, there’s the room you can see through the glass. It’s the same as our living room, but everything is the other way round. The books are like our books, but the words go the wrong way. I know that because I put a book in front of the looking-glass, and they held• up a book in the looking-glass room, too.’

GLOSSARY

- | | |
|--|---|
| • angry: having a strong feeling against someone | • look like: seem to be |
| • cried: said in a loud voice | • naughty: not good |
| • held: took in their hands | • pretend: act as if something is true |
| • kissed: put one’s mouth on someone/thing to show love | • purred: (of cats) low sound |
| | • try: do something to see if it is possible |

‘Would you like to live in the looking-glass house, Kitty? Perhaps looking-glass milk isn’t nice. Kitty, look at the hall! You can see it when the door of our living room is open. It is the same as our hall. Oh, Kitty! I want to go into the looking-glass house! Let’s pretend we can, Kitty. Let’s pretend the glass is soft•, and we can go through it.’

Alice climbed• up, and the glass began to disappear•. And in a moment, Alice went through the looking-glass.

She jumped down into the looking-glass room. ‘Oh, what fun!’ she said. Then she began to look round. Everything was different now. The people in the pictures were moving, and the clock had the face of a little old man.

Alice saw some chess pieces walking on the fireplace. She sat on her knees, in surprise•. ‘Here are the Red King and the Red Queen,’ Alice whispered•. ‘And there are the White King and the White Queen — and two castles walking arm in arm. I don’t think they can hear me,’ she said. ‘And I don’t think they can see me.’

Alice heard a noise on the table behind her. She turned her head, and she saw a white pawn. It was lying• on its back and crying like a baby.

‘I can hear Lily!’ said the White Queen. ‘My dear daughter!’

Alice wanted to help, so she picked up• the Queen. Then she put her on the table next to her daughter.

The Queen sat down, and she picked up little Lily. ‘Be careful of the volcano•!’ she said to the White King.

‘What volcano?’ asked the King.

‘It blew• me up here,’ said the Queen. ‘Climb up the table leg!’

GLOSSARY

- **blew:** (of air) moved
- **climbed:** went up
- **disappear:** not be seen
- **in surprise:** feeling when something strange happens
- **lying:** staying on one’s back
- **picked up:** took in her hand
- **soft:** not hard
- **volcano:** mountain with fire inside
- **whispered:** said in a low voice

Alice watched the White King slowly climb up the table leg. 'I can help you,' she said. But the King couldn't hear or see her. So Alice picked him up gently•. He was very surprised, and his eyes and his mouth became big. He looked funny. Alice put him on the table next to the Queen.

Then Alice saw a book on the table. She opened it, but she couldn't read it. *It's in a language I don't know*, she thought. It was a poem called *YKCOWREBBAJ*.

Then Alice had an idea. 'Of course! It's a looking-glass book, the words are the wrong way!' Alice put the book in front of the looking-glass. 'The words are the right way, now,' she said, smiling.

Alice read the poem. It was called *JABBERWOCKY*. 'I like it,' she said, 'but it's difficult to understand!' And she put the book down. 'Now I want to see the garden. She went out of the room and down the stairs. But she didn't walk. Her feet didn't touch the stairs. She floated• gently down. Then she floated through the hall. When she came to the door, she stopped. She walked into the garden. *That's better*, she thought.

Jabberwocky

WEB Research online the poem *Jabberwocky*.
Who wrote it? Why is it famous?
Is there a similar poem in your language?

• **floated:** moved without putting her feet on the ground

• **gently:** in a slow, kind way

AFTER READING VOCABULARY

1 Use five of the words in the box to complete the sentences.

branch counter manners recite
slices thirsty untidy waist

- a Alice was She wanted some water, but the Queen gave her a very dry biscuit.
- b The wings of the bread-and-butterfly were of bread and butter.
- c 'Your hair is very ,' Alice said to the Queen.
- d Alice was in a little shop, and a sheep was sitting behind the
- e The Red Queen thought that Alice didn't have any

2 Write three sentences with the words left out in Exercise 1.

3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of *make* or *do*.

- a Alice remembered that she was a pawn. *I must my first move*, she thought.
- b The next minute, both Queens were sleeping. *What do I now?* thought Alice.
- c The Red Queen asked Alice to sing her a lullaby to her want to sleep.
- d 'Can you answer any questions?' asked the Red Queen. 'How is bread ?'
- e She a noise by knocking on the door.
- f 'At school we learn to maths,' said Alice.
- g A 'bleat' is the sound that a sheep

K Key English Test Reading and Writing Part 4

1 For each sentence, choose the correct answer (A, B or C).

- 1** The room she could see through the glass was the same her living room.
A of **B** as **C** like
- 2** 'I nearly opened the window and put you outside the snow!' Alice cried.
A through **B** in **C** with
- 3** The pawn was on its back and crying like a baby.
A walking **B** lying **C** sitting
- 4** Everthing in the looking-glass world is other way round.
A the **B** an **C** any
- 5** Tweedledum and Tweedledee looking at Alice.
A were **B** went **C** was
- 6** 'Please can you put my helmet on?' asked Tweedledum. It wasn't a helmet. It was a saucepan.
A really **B** maybe **C** finally
- 7** Alice sat on her knees, surprise.
A at **B** on **C** in
- 8** Suddenly, the queen's crown came her head and hit her finger.
A off **B** down **C** on
- 9** 'But,' said Humpty Dumpty, 'if I fall off — I'm not going to — but if I do — the King's going to—'
A that **B** but **C** which
- 10** The queen was running across the table her shawl.
A after **B** before **C** on