

CHESS · VARIANT 18 OF 153

Benedict Chess

8×8

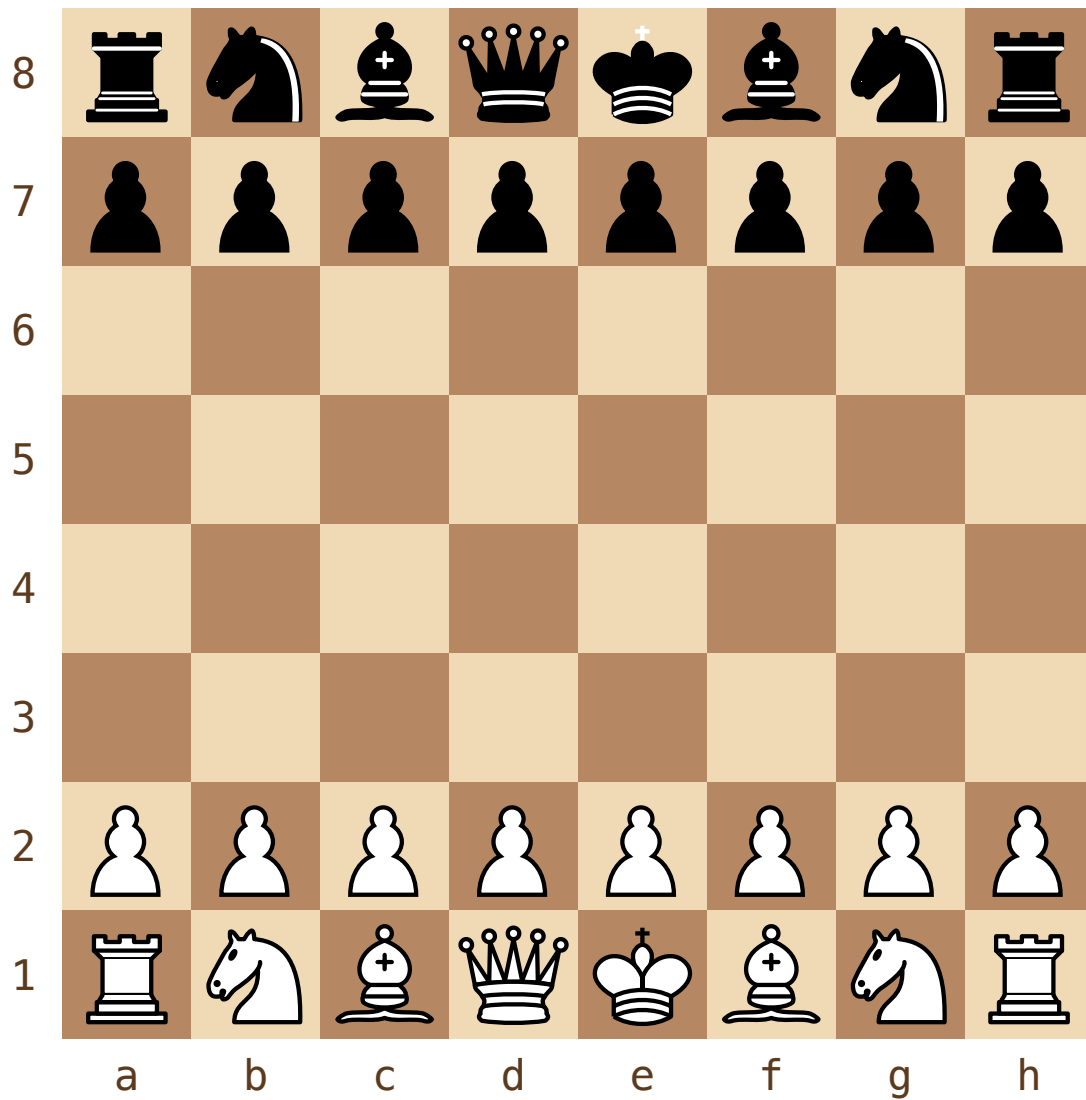
BOARD

2

PLAYERS

BENEDICT CHESS

There are no captures. When a piece moves to a square from which it attacks enemy pieces, those pieces convert to the mover's colour. Win by converting the opponent's King.



Benedict Chess – starting position

<https://engine.moddable.games/play/?game=chess&variant=benedict>

SETUP

Board: Standard 8×8.

Setup: Standard chess starting position.

FEN: rnbqkbnr/pppppppp/8/8/8/8/PPPPPPPP/RNBQKBNR w KQkq - 0 1

RULES

- ♦ Pieces move as in standard chess but there are NO captures.
- ♦ When a piece moves to a new square, every enemy piece it now attacks (could move to, if it were a capture) immediately converts to the moving player's colour.
- ♦ Multiple enemy pieces can convert from a single move.
- ♦ Pawns convert enemies on the diagonals they attack, not the square in front.
- ♦ The King can be converted – this ends the game immediately.
- ♦ Since there are no captures, the total number of pieces on the board never decreases.
- ♦ No castling (the King is too vulnerable to conversion near the centre).
- ♦ No en passant (there are no captures).

WIN CONDITION

Convert the opponent's King to your colour (by moving a piece that attacks the King's square).

STRATEGY

Long-range pieces (Queen, Bishops, Rooks) are enormously powerful because they can convert many pieces at once. The game snowballs – converting pieces gives you more attackers. Protecting your King from being in ANY attack line is critical. Early moves are decisive; one careless move can trigger chain conversions.

ATTRIBUTION

C. S. Elliott, 1971. Named after Benedict Arnold. Public domain rules.