

CHESS · VARIANT 60 OF 153

# Flip Chess

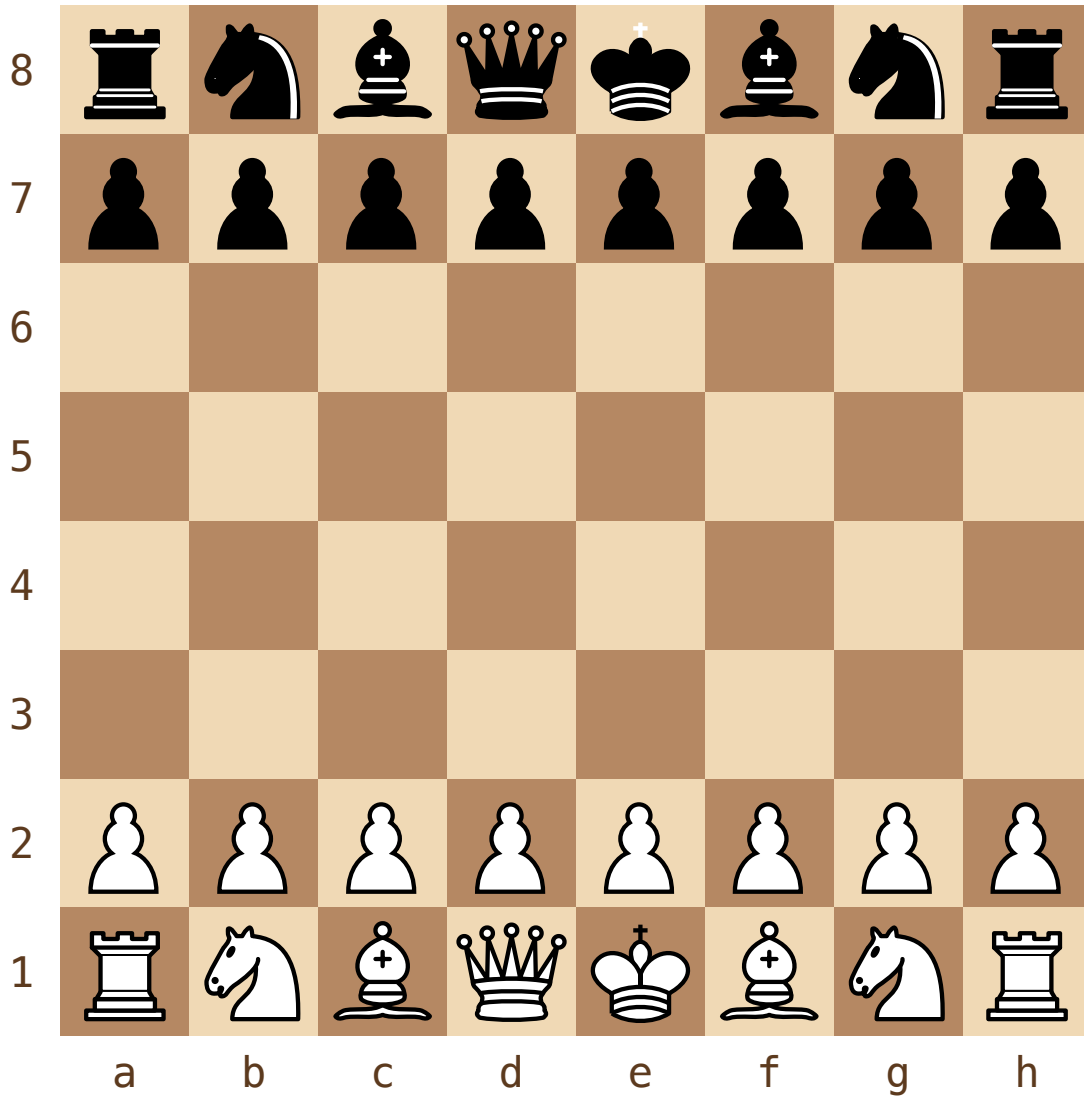
**38 squares (unusual shape)**

BOARD

**2**

PLAYERS

## FLIP CHESS



*Flip Chess – starting position*

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

Flip Chess is a chess variant played on a **38-square board** with an unusual shape. Created by John William Brown in 1999, it is a companion game to **Crazy 38's** – both are 38-square chess variants in the tradition of exploring compact, non-standard board geometries. A Java applet implementation by Ed Friedlander is available on [chessvariants.com](http://chessvariants.com).

## THE BOARD

A 38-square board with an unusual non-rectangular shape. The board has 38 squares — 6 fewer than a standard 8×8 chess board. The compact geometry brings all pieces into conflict earlier in the game and reduces the positional depth of standard chess openings.

## THE BARE KING RULE

Flip Chess does **not** use standard checkmate as its win condition. Instead:

**A player whose King is the only piece remaining on the board loses immediately.**

This applies regardless of whether the King is in check. Once all other pieces have been captured, the lone King loses. This shifts strategy significantly: rather than manoeuvring toward checkmate, players focus on eliminating all enemy pieces, and Kings become active fighting pieces since their loss is a forfeit condition once they are the last piece.

## SPECIAL RULES

- ♦ **No initial double Pawn move.** Pawns may advance only one square on their first move, as in Shatranj. There is consequently no en passant.
- ♦ **Win condition:** Bare King (reduce opponent to King only); standard checkmate does not apply
- ♦ All other standard chess movement rules apply unless modified above

## PIECE SET

Standard FIDE piece set (King, Queen, Rooks, Bishops, Knights, Pawns).

## ATTRIBUTION

Flip Chess was created by John William Brown, 1999. Described as an 'acclaimed 38 square variant.' Java applet implementation by Ed Friedlander. Source: [chessvariants.com/play/erf/FlipChss.html](http://chessvariants.com/play/erf/FlipChss.html)