Chess Strategy for Children

Suppose a game starts with these moves.

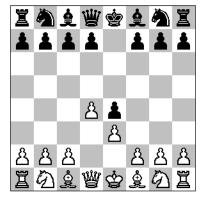
a) White's first move: pawn from e2 to e3 (written as "e3")

b) Black's first move: pawn from e7 to e5 (written as "e5")

c) White's second move: pawn from d2 to d4 (written as "d4")

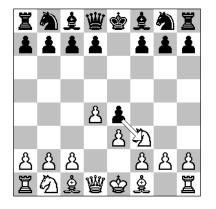
d) Black's second move: pawn from e5 to e4 (written as "e4")

The first moves by each player are written down with "1." in front, which makes them "1. e3 e5". The second moves by each player would have "2." in front, which makes them "2. d4 e4".

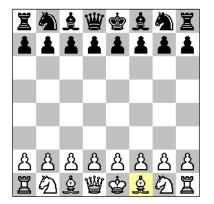


Here is the position reached by those moves 1. e3 e5 2. d4 e4.

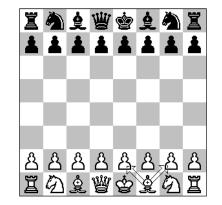
Would moving the knight from g1 to f3 still be a good move?



Answer: No, because Black's pawn at e4 could capture it. It's better to move a piece to a worse square than to give it up and get back only a pawn. Now, we'll look at how to get ready to move a bishop.



In the starting position, what squares are controlled by White's bishop at f1 (the square shown in yellow)?



Answer: The bishop at f1 controls e2 and g2. It protects those squares even though chessmen are there.

Is there a pawn move that would allow the bishop at f1 to move?