

11. How to Open a Chess Game

Objectives:

1. Recall the three principles governing opening play
2. Begin demonstrating understanding of opening strategy

The main goal of this lesson is to teach the opening principles and to guide students' application and understanding of these principles. The students should come away with the knowledge of why the opening principles are good guidelines to follow, and begin obeying the opening principles in competition with other students.

From this lesson, the students should learn to pay constant attention to the basic opening strategies of controlling the center, developing pieces toward the center, and keeping the king safe. All mistakes in the opening violate one of these principles, and such violations should be pointed out by the teacher at every available opportunity.

It is important to understand that these general principles are just that: principles. It is sometimes a good idea to violate a principle if something unusual occurs. Again, **the position ultimately determines** whether an opening move, or any move, is a good move. The principles should be relied upon and generally followed as a guide to opening play, but they are not absolute laws that should be followed without thought.

Outline of lesson:

1. Three stages of a chess game
2. Three general principles
3. What to do and what not to do in the opening
4. Examples of opening play

