Contents:

Chess - The Purpose of Each Piece 2

Unlock Your Creative Ideas With This Magic Question 3

8 Things to See in Rocky Mountain National Park 4

Essentials for a Hike 6
Chess - The Purpose of Each Piece
by: Dan Jenkins

My favorite joke about chess is that it must have been designed by a feminist. Why? The King is the target. His movements are very limited. In fact, there is only one way that a King can move more than one square at a time. We'll discuss that later in the article. However, the only feminine piece on the board is the Queen. The Queen can move any direction on the board, and any number of squares. Her only limitation is that she cannot jump over other pieces. This makes the Queen the most powerful piece on the chess board, and the King is the most vulnerable with its limitations.

The pawns are the least valuable of all of the game pieces. On their first move, a pawn can move either one or two spaces forward. However, they can only capture another piece on the forward diagonal, to either side. Pawns are primarily defensive. How the pawns are developed is very important for the protection of the King. Pawns must work together, with the assistance of stronger pieces, in order to provide a good defense for the King. There is one other feature about pawns that most players fail to respect: Pawns are baby Queens. If a pawn makes it all the way to the 8th rank, it is promoted to whatever piece the player chooses, usually a Queen. This reality can have a major impact on the strategy of some chess games.

Bishops flank the King and Queen. Bishops can move an unlimited number of spaces, at diagonals only. However, bishops cannot jump over other figures. This means that a pawn must be moved to give a bishop a way to move out of the first rank and become an offensive weapon. There is one bishop on a white space and one bishop on a black space. And, these bishops never leave the color of spaces that they begin on. This fact plays into the strategies a player uses in developing his or her attack or defense.

Knights are to the outside of the bishops. Knights have the unique move characteristics. Knights can jump over the opponents figures. The Knight is the only one that moves two spaces and then one space to the right or left, in any direction. When a player learns how to use Knights and Bishops in combinations, their game will become much stronger.

Rooks are two tower-like figures on the outside squares, beside the Knights. Rooks can move freely on the rank and file, but cannot jump over the opponent's figures. Rooks are strongest when they work together, linked on a rank or a file.

Finally, what is rank and file? There are 8 files, straight forward and backward, on the chess board. There are also 8 ranks, straight side to side, on the chess board. This means that the chess board has a total of 64 squares for the chess figures to play on and develop a win by placing the King in check with the inability to move out of check. This is the object of the game, known as a checkmate.

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Unlock Your Creative Ideas With This Magic Question  
by: Bill Stainton  

It happens virtually every morning. You wake up, and there in the paper, or online, or on TV, is a success story. (Yes, they're there. Sometimes you have to wade through the garbage.) Some entrepreneur, some company, some industry has come up with a game-changer. It might be Elon Musk, or the folks at Apple, or some person you've never heard of from some small town you've never heard of. But they've done it. They've come up with something brilliant - a breakthrough.

And you think, "Good for them," but somewhere, deep down inside, a little part of you dies. Because, once again, it wasn't you.

But what if you could turn that around? What if you could find a way to turn their success into your success? What if there was a way that you could wake up virtually every morning to a ready-made "breakthrough workshop?"

You can. And it comes down to one, simple five-word question:

"How is this like that?"
I call it the Magic Question.

The root of practically all creativity is in taking two or more things that don't normally go together and finding a surprising connection. When you ask the Magic Question, you're forcing your brain to do just that.

I recently conducted a creativity workshop for a brilliant group of credit union marketers. For one activity, I asked a portion of this group to come up with as many answers as they could to this question: "How is working with multiple generations [one of the challenges they had identified earlier] like... an egg?"

Why "an egg"? No reason. I just picked it at random. But it forced them to look at the challenge through a different lens. Twenty minutes later, they had not only come up with answers, they had come up with an entire marketing campaign-complete with copy, tag lines, visuals, and much more. In just twenty minutes!

From an egg.

Now, what if, instead of an egg, you were to use someone else's breakthrough idea as your starting point? What if, tomorrow morning, you were to do these things, in this order:

Wake up, search for, and find the success story.
Gather your team.
Review the success story.
Ask this version of the Magic Question: "How is what this person/company/industry did like us? How can we take what they did and apply it to our business?"
Spend at least 20 minutes coming up with answers.
Nothing is out of bounds; no answer is too outlandish. That's because any idea, no matter how silly, could be what I call "the idea that leads to the idea."

The only unacceptable answer to "How is this like that?" is, "It's not." There are always connections, when you choose to look for them.

And one of those connections might just be your next million-dollar idea.

About The Author
For 15 years, Executive Producer Bill Stainton led his team to more than 100 Emmy Awards and 10 straight years of #1 ratings. Today Bill helps leaders achieve those kinds of results--in THEIR world and with THEIR teams. His website is http://www.BillStainton.com

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8 Things to See in Rocky Mountain National Park  
(reading – 17.6. - 23.6.)

by: Ryan Hein

Rocky Mountain National Park is located in north-central Colorado. The size of the area is around 266,714 acres and consists of 60% forests, 18% bare rock and 13% alpine tundra. According to statistics, about 11% of the site is 11,000 feet high. Here is a description of 8 things you should see in Rocky Mountains.

1. Roads/Trails

You can explore the roads and trails on a vehicle or horseback, but if you are fit, you can also visit the sights on foot. Trail Ridge Road is a long stretch in the park and offers a spectacular view at a height of 12,183.

2. Peaks

The Rocky Mountain has over 100 peaks at a height of over 11,000 feet. Moreover, in the North, you can see snow-covered Never Summer Mountains in addition to 17 other peaks. Aside from this, Longs Peak is 14,259 feet high and is one of the most favorite destinations for hikers and climbers.

3. Glaciers

While the glaciers are retreating because of the global warming and other temperature changes, you can still find the sky-high glaciers over there, such as Sprague, Moomaw, Mills and Andrews, just to name a few.

4. Alpine Visitor Center

At a height of 11,796 feet, you can see the Alpine Visitor Center, which runs along the popular Trail Ridge Road. This is one of the top rest stops in the Rocky Mountains.

5. Water Sites

In the Rocky Mountains, you can find a lot of waterfalls, rivers, lakes and streams. They are ideal for photography, rafting, kayaking, fishing and sightseeing. Once there, you can choose Bear Lake Road, The Lock Sky Pond or Glass Lake, for instance.
6. Plants

The many environmental zones of the park offer a host of flora and fauna. For instance, the park offers meadows with tall grass and amazing wildflowers, dense forests, wetlands and Roosevelt National Forest. On the other hand, the high zones offer subalpine fir trees, shrubs and wildflowers. These plants will steal your heart and you won't want to come back home.

7. Animals

The fauna section of the Rocky Mountains include larks, sparrows, ravens, finches, falcons, eagles, mule deer, elk, sheep, bighorn, black bears, coyotes, lions and so on. Aside from this, if you are at higher elevations, you can find beautiful pikas, marmots, rabbits, deer mice, ermine, bobcats and red foxes.

Besides, the park is home to some endangered species, such as cutthroat trout, yellow-billed cuckoo and the Canada lynx. In addition, you can find over 140 species of butterflies and tons of species of other insects.

8. People

Every year, over 3 million individuals from different corners of the world head for the Rocky Mountain National Park. Visiting the RMNP will be a multi-cultural experience for you. You can talk to other park visitors in order to find out about their languages and cultures.

So, if you are getting bored, we suggest that you choose the Rocky Mountain as your next tour destination. We bet this destination will take all your boredom away from you.

Is Rocky Mountains your next travel destination? If so, we hope that the information given in this article will make your trip more enjoyable.

About The Author

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Essentials for a Hike  (reading – 24.6. - 30.6.)
by: Eliza Susan

When on a hike, safety is your biggest concern. You could get injured or even lose your way. Sports watches with GPS help to navigate yourself back home. Similarly, with that, here is a short list of essentials to pack light, smart and be prepared for a safe and pleasant hiking journey.

A good breakfast. You must have already heard that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Yes, it is true. Your morning meal before a hike should include a cereal (oats or wheat), which will give you the necessary carbohydrates for energy. Your energy level can be kept on track throughout the day by sipping on water as well as munching onto fruits and nuts.

Inform someone about your plans. Never take off without informing your family or a friend that you are planning to hike and which direction you intend to go. In case you are not back in time, rescuers will have an idea where to find you. You could also use your GPS enabled watch to navigate back. Never post your itinerary anywhere on your car as this can attract thieves.

Weather update. Be informed about the weather conditions within your trail. Accordingly you should be clothing yourself to keep you warm and dry. If the weather turns out to be worse than expected, always choose to return home. Do not risk your life for anything. The mountains are always going to be there on the same trail.

Hiking equipment. A compass is a very valuable tool but you could also carry a sports watch with GPS instead because those come with inbuilt compass as well as additional navigation tools. A map and a guidebook will also be helpful.

Light source. Headlamp or a flashlight is extremely essential even if you don't intend on staying out till dark. Twist your ankle or take a wrong turn and your hike will take much longer than expected.

First aid kit. Just basic stuff such as bandages, adhesive tape, antibiotic ointment, gauze and pain relief tablets should be sufficient.

Lots of water. You need more than the normal daily intake of water required because you are exercising. Not only do you feel better with water, your body also functions better when you stay hydrated.

Duct tape. This should be your secret weapon. Wind it around your water bottle to make sure it stays close at hand. A tear in your tent or a hole in your canoe can be saved with duct tape.

About The Author

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