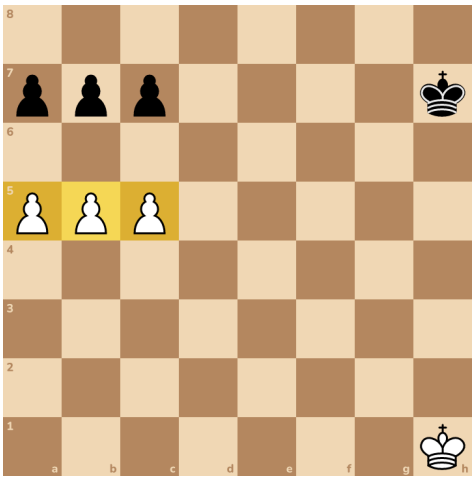
My Chess Family

The pawn breakthrough

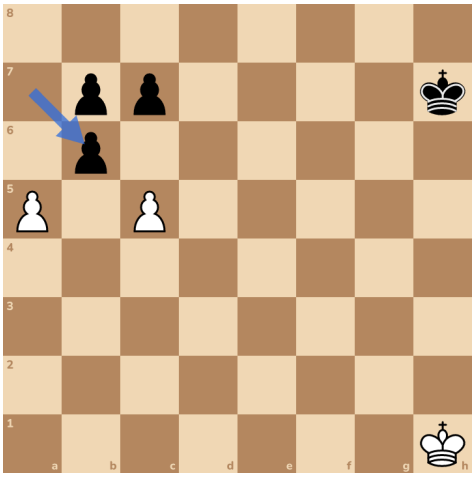
Try each question on a real board, then check the answers at the end of the sheet.

Breakthrough

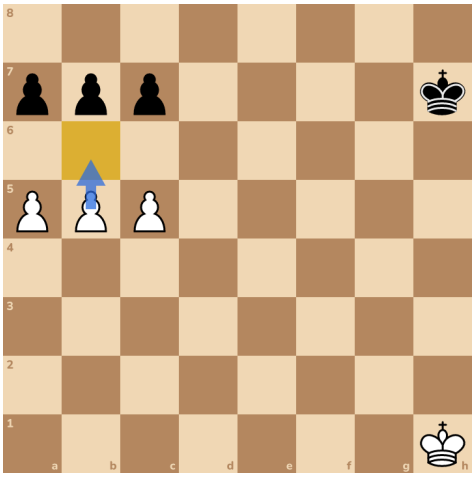
Here's a new position, from Capablanca. Both kings are far away. Three pawns face three. Can one of yours get through?



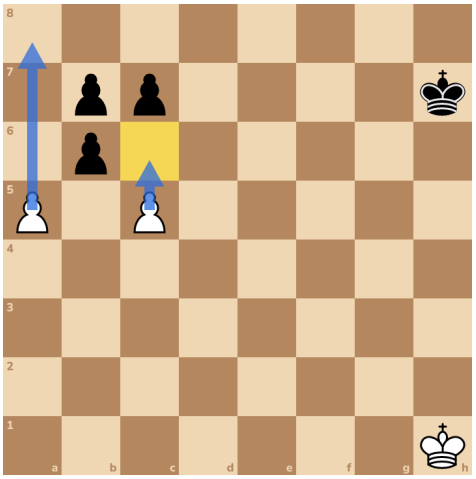
Say his a-pawn takes on b6.



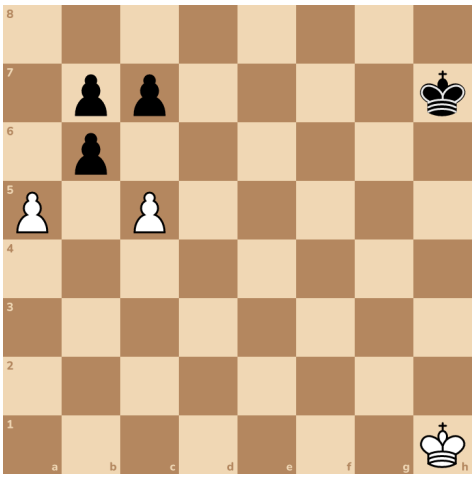
There's a trick, with two steps. Part one. Push your middle pawn to b6, and give it away!



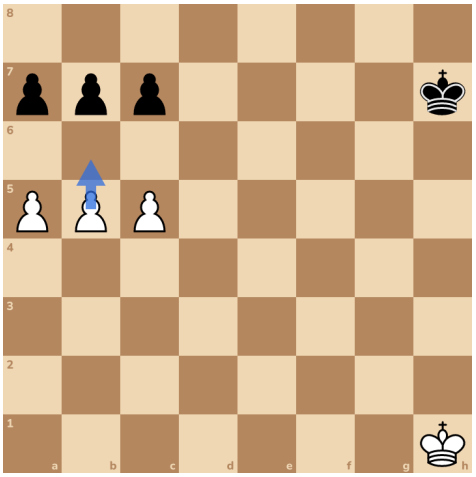
Part two. Push c6, and give that pawn away too! If his b7 pawn takes it, nothing can stop your a-pawn.



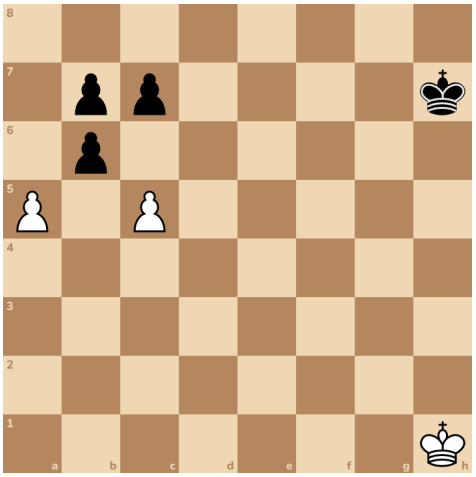
If his c-pawn takes on b6 instead, it's the same trick on the other side. You'll see it at the end. Now try it!



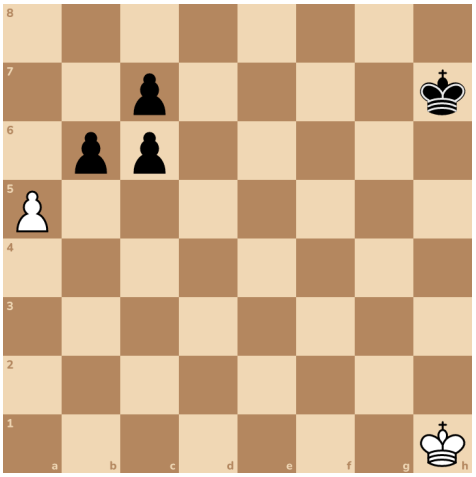
Try it 1. Push your middle pawn to b6!



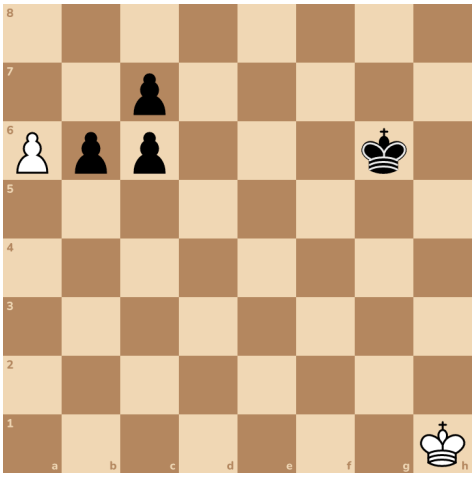
Try it 2. He took with the a-pawn. Now part two of the trick!



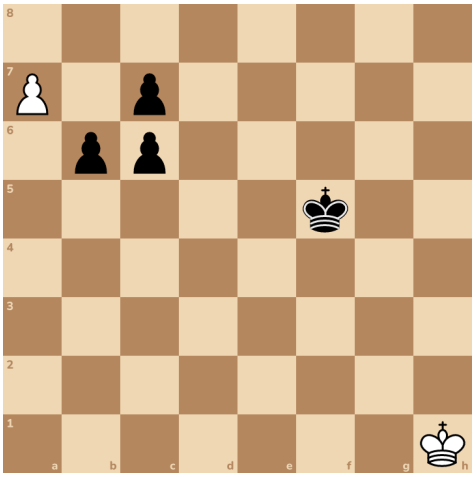
Try it 3. Your a-pawn has a free road. Push it!



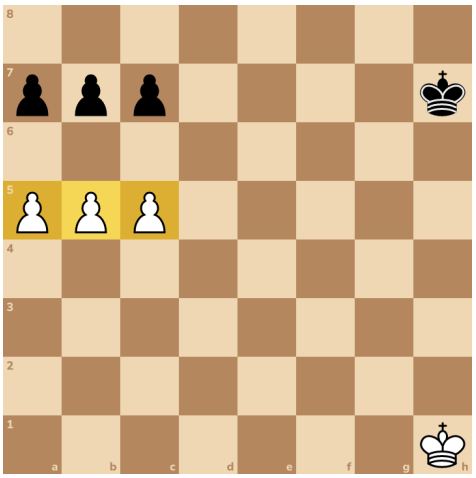
Try it 4. Push it again!



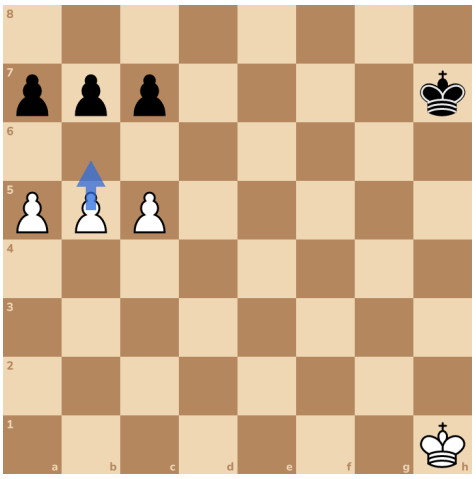
Try it 5. Make a queen!



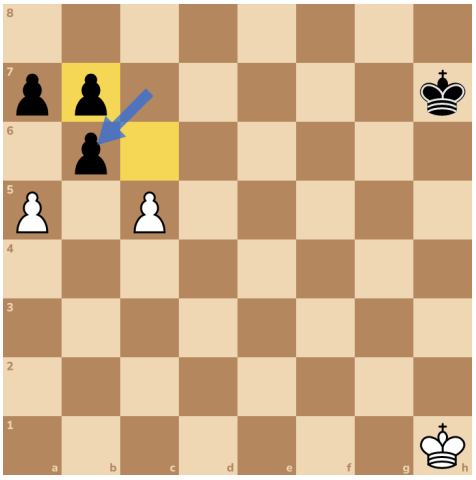
Here's the start again. This time, he takes on b6 with a different pawn. Let's see what changes.



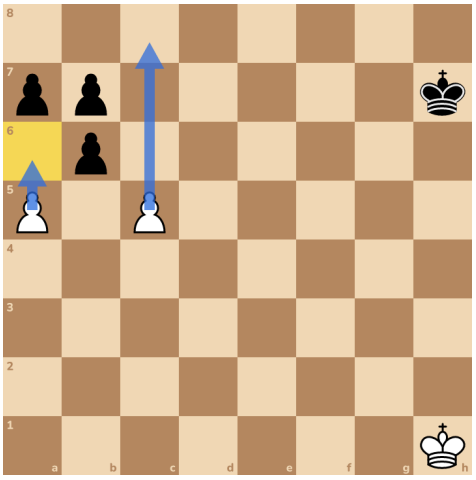
Try it 6. Part one is the same. Push your middle pawn to b6!



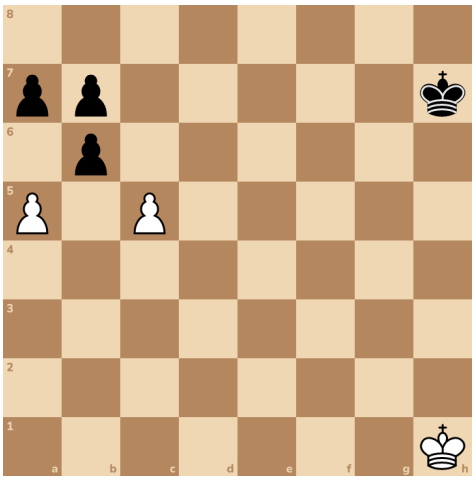
This time his c-pawn took. Now his b7 pawn guards c6, so c6 doesn't work. Part two uses your other pawn.



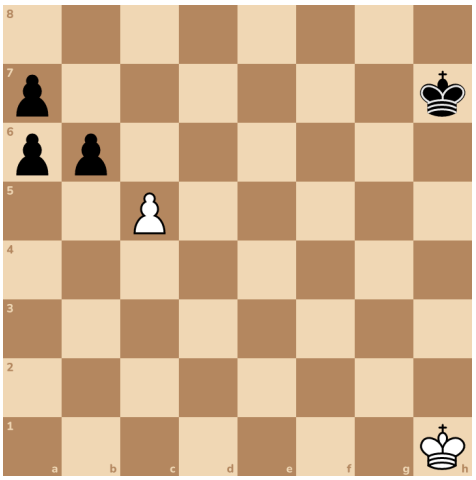
Push a6, and give that pawn away! His b7 pawn can take it. Then nothing guards c6, and your c-pawn runs.



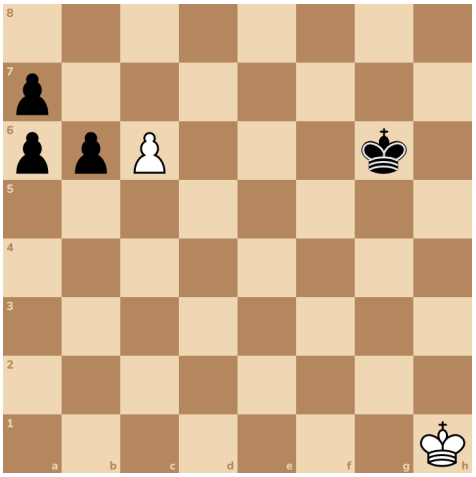
Try it 7. Push your a-pawn, and give it away!



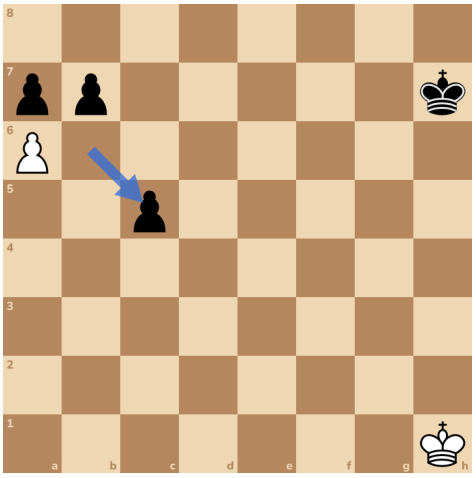
Try it 8. He took with his b-pawn. Now your c-pawn has a free road. Push it!



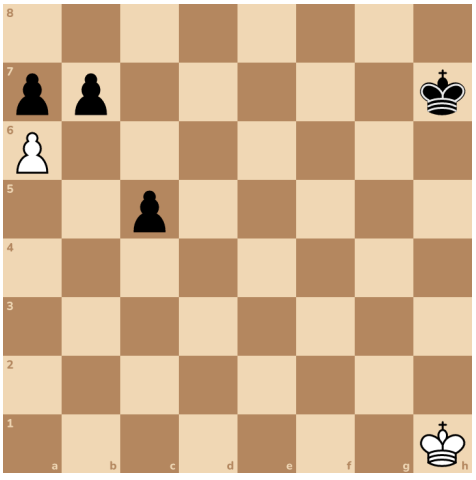
Try it 9. Push it again!



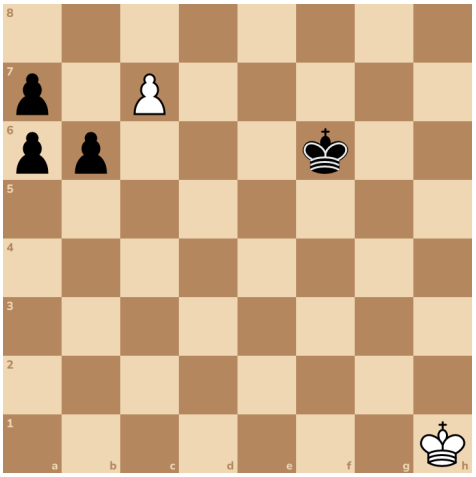
Go back to a6. He could take your c-pawn instead, with his b6 pawn.



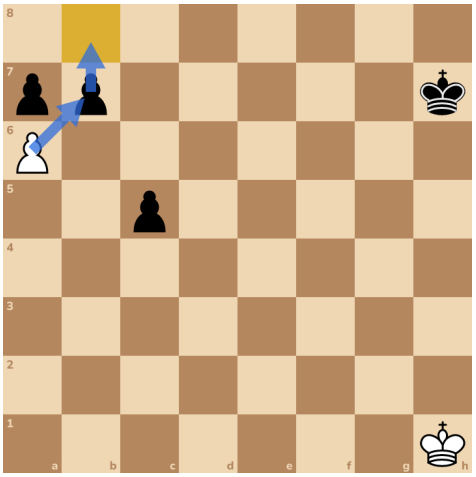
The trick only works when his king is too far away to catch your last pawn. If his king is close, it takes that pawn.



Try it 10. Make a queen!

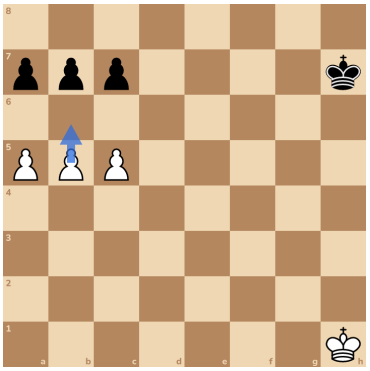


Then your a-pawn takes his pawn on b7, and makes a queen on b8. Either way, one of your pawns gets through.

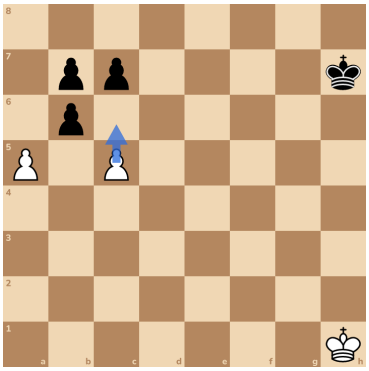


Answers

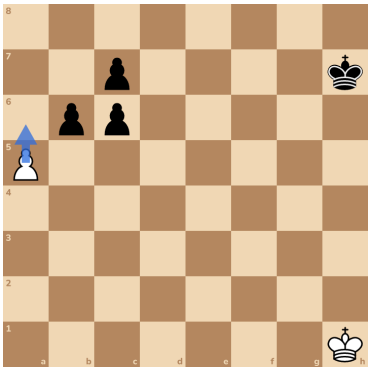
1. b6



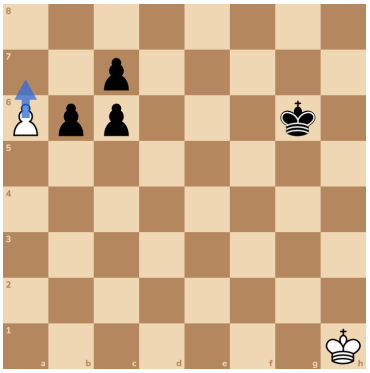
2. c6



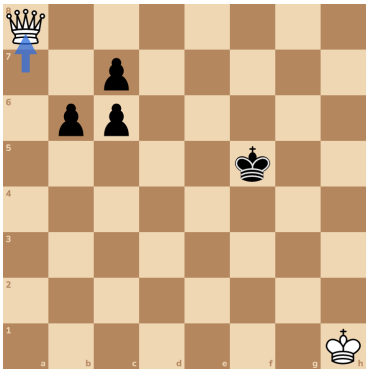
3. a6



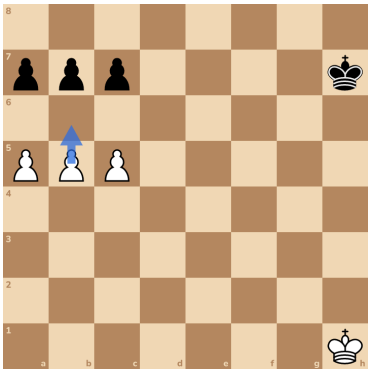
4. a7



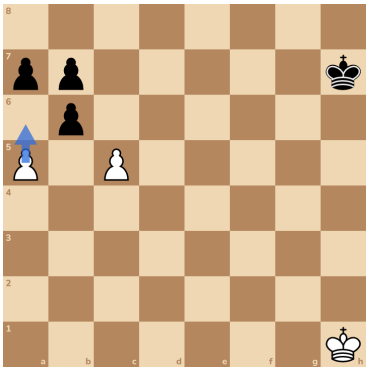
5. a8=Q



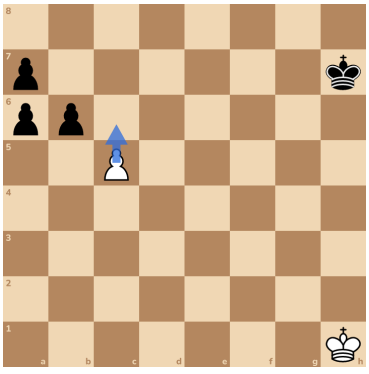
6. b6



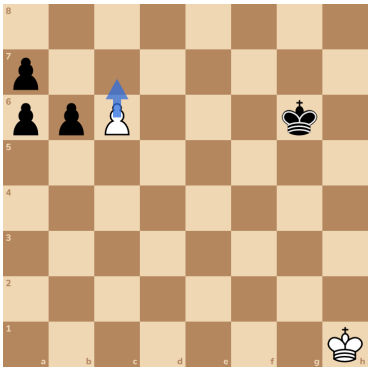
7. a6



8. c6



9. c7



10. c8=Q

