My Chess Family

Why start a chess game with d4?

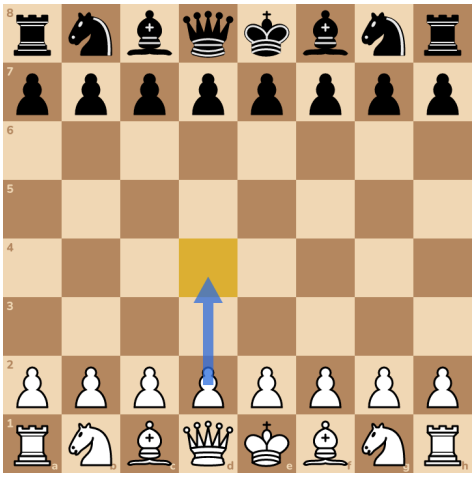
Try each question on a real board, then check the answers at the end of the sheet.

Why d4?

Another great first move is d4. It's the pawn in front of your queen. Let's see what it does.



Try it 1. Push your d-pawn two squares, into the centre.



Your pawn takes a square in the centre. It guards c5 and e5, so Black's pieces can't stand there safely.



And it opens a door. Your bishop on c1 can come out now.



Here's something special about d4. Your queen already guards the pawn. When you play e4, nothing guards that pawn.



So d4 takes a square in the centre, guards c5 and e5, lets a bishop out, and is guarded already. A fine way to start.



Try it 2. Which piece guards your pawn on d4?

A:  **B:**  **C:** 

Answers

1. d4



2. A: the white queen

Is there a bad side? A small one. The bishop on f1 is still stuck behind the e-pawn. You'll open its door later, with e3 or e4.

