

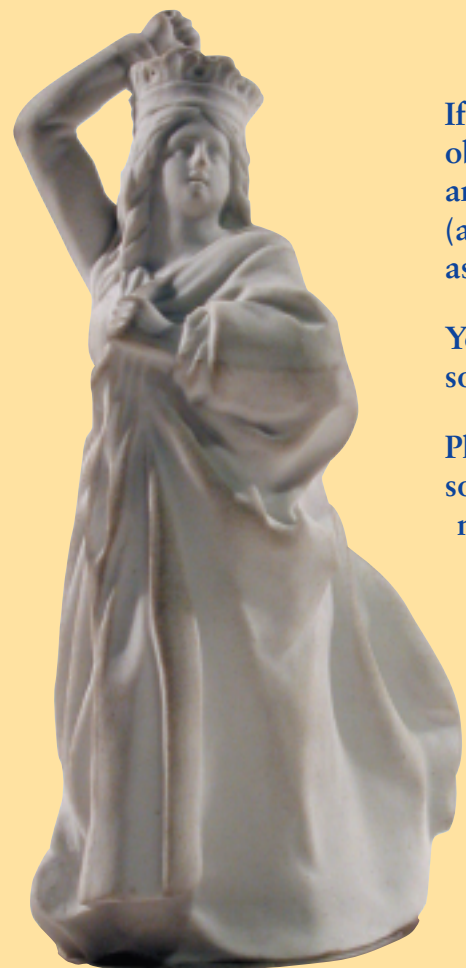
Get on Board!

What games do you like to play? Some games are popular for a few months and then disappear, only to be replaced by the next new fad. But certain games, like chess, have fascinated people so much that they have been around for hundreds or even thousands of years. People play chess all over the world—maybe you play it yourself. Playing chess requires strategy and concentration, and can be very exciting.

In this issue of **museumkids**, you will see how chess has inspired artists from different times and cultures to create beautiful works of art. We'll take a look at just a few pieces in the Museum—an individual chess piece, a complete chess set, a painting of chess players, and a chess table.



Look for the pawn symbol in this issue to find fun facts about the works of art.



If you need help finding any of the objects featured in this issue when you are in the Museum, look at a floor plan (available at the Information Desks) or ask a security guard for directions.

You can look at the objects in any order, so start anywhere in the Metropolitan.

Please remember that galleries may sometimes be closed and that objects are not always on view.

This queen belongs to the Wedgwood chess set mentioned in this issue. If you visit the Museum, see if you can find it.

Piece from a set made from a 1793 design for Wedgwood by John Flaxman (1755–1826); Josiah Wedgwood and Sons, Staffordshire, Etruria, 19th century; Gift of Gustavus A. Pfeiffer, 1948 (53.71.84a–p, aa–pp)



Liberale da Verona (Liberale di Giacomo, Italian, 1445–1527/29), *The Chess Players* (detail); tempera on wood, 13 3/4 x 16 1/4 in; Bequest of Maitland F. Griggs, 1943 (43.98.8)

A Global Game

Chess was probably created in India in the sixth century A.D., when it started as a game called *chaturanga*. Based on an ancient battle formation, four people played using thirty-two pieces that represented two opposing armies. The game of chess spread from India to several countries, including Persia (modern-day Iran), where it was called *shatranj*.

The European version of chess was developed by the twelfth century, by which time the bishop and the queen had replaced the elephant corps and the *vizier* (or general) of the ancient Indian game.

Modern chess is played by two people. The object of the game is to capture your opponent's king. An attack on the king is called a "check." When the king cannot escape, this is known as a "checkmate." The player who captures his or her opponent's king first wins.

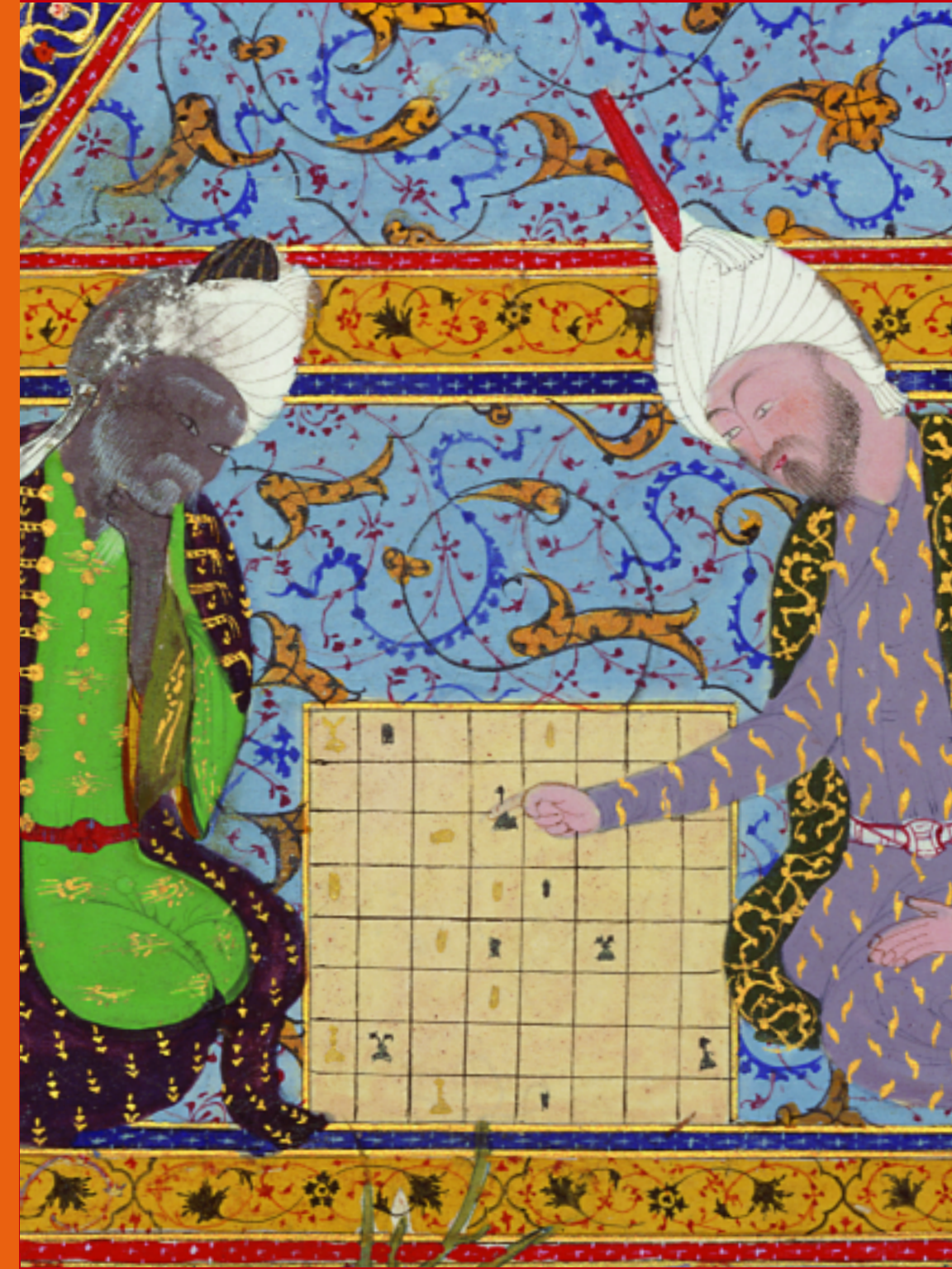
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The Metropolitan Museum of Art
Education
1000 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10028-0198
(212) 570-3961
www.metmuseum.org

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Front: *Buzurjmihr Masters the Game of Chess* (detail), from the *Book of Kings* (Shahnamah), Iran, Tabriz, Safavid period, ca. 1530–35; attributed to 'Abd al-Vahhab; colors, ink, silver, and gold on paper, 9 5/8 x 6 7/8 in.; Gift of Arthur A. Houghton, Jr., 1970 (1970.30171)

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The Art of Chess

at The Metropolitan Museum of Art