

Smothered Mate

Chess

The knight mate against a king boxed in by its own pieces.

The classic sequence, worth memorising as a pattern.

1

Knight check on f7

The king goes to h8, or the position is already close.

2

Double check with Nh6+

The king must go back to g8.

3

Queen sacrifice on g8

Qg8+ — the rook is forced to capture.

4

Nf7 mate

The king is smothered by his own pieces.

PRECONDITIONS

Their king on g8 or h8

Their own pieces on the escape squares

Your knight able to reach f7 or h6

It looks like a trick and is a pattern. Once recognised it appears surprisingly often in club games.