



## THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT CHESS

The youngest grandmaster in history is Sergey Karjakin who received the title when he was twelve years and seven months old, in 2002.

There are 318,979,564,000 possible ways to play the first four moves of a chess game on each side of the board.

In 1995, Robert Smeltzer of Dallas, Texas, played 2,266 USCF rated games in one year, the most ever.

The shortest chess game recorded lasted for only one move. It was played between Rogoff and Huber in 1972.

The number of possible, unique chess games is far greater than the number of electrons in the universe. The number of electrons is estimated to be a mere  $10^{79}$ , while the number of unique chess games is  $10^{120}$ . In English, that's a thousand trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion games.

The folding chessboard was originally invented in 1125 by a chess-playing priest. Since the Church forbid priests to play chess, he hid his chessboard by making one that looked simply like two books lying together.

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The Grandmaster title is awarded by the World Chess Federation and the requirements are as follows:

A player must have an Elo (a chess skill rating) of at least 2500 at one time (although they need not maintain this level to keep the title). In addition, at least two favorable results (called norms) in tournaments involving other Grandmasters, including some from countries other than the applicant's, are required before a player can become a Grandmaster. There are other milestones a player can achieve to get the title, such as winning the Women's World Championship, the World Junior Championship, or the World Senior Championship.



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