

Unit

6

Poem

Incident of the French Camp

Robert Browning



Warm Up

Have you played chess or watched the game carefully?

Now identify the chess pieces and complete the table below. Discuss the role of each piece in the game.



DO YOU KNOW?

From ancient India to the computer age, the military has used chess as both a metaphor and even as training for warfare. Chess began in 6th Century in India as a 64-square board game, called Chaturanga, precisely modelled on the military forces of the day.

Before you begin to listen to the poem, let's know about the interesting background of the incident of the French camp.

Napoleon Bonaparte (1769–1821) was originally an officer in the French army became the army chief and a legendary warrior, who later known for his military skill and genius.

The poem 'Incident of the French Camp' narrates an actual incident in the war in 1809 between France and Austria, led by Napoleon.

Napoleon was standing on a little mound, eagerly looking towards Ratisbon. His mind was oppressed with anxious thoughts and he said to himself that all his ambitious plans would come to nothing if Lannes failed to storm Ratisbon.