

World-Building Worksheet

Geology and Geography

New planet or Earth?

Climate?

Weather?

Oceans/continents? How are they laid out?

Ecosystems? (Forests, oceans, deserts, grasslands, arctic regions?)

Sky? (Daytime? Nighttime stars, moons, rings, light pollution?)

Seasons? (Length, type?)

Nature (Are any lifeforms sentient?)

Animals?

Insects?

Plants?

Diseases?

Molds?

Aliens?

Food chains?

Natural resources? Limitations? Cause of tension?

Countries and Populations

How are the countries laid out?

Are there aliens? Native or from elsewhere?

Any tensions between races, genders, or species?

Languages? Are communications easy or hard?

What is the total population (of the planet/ country/city, etc.)?

Politics and Economics

Forms of government? Popular or not with the people or a subclass of people?

What does the government provide? (Healthcare, public transportation, libraries, education?)

Who are the enemies of the state? Are their police? Armies?

How are criminals dealt with?

What are the socio-economic classes? Are they in conflict? Is there slavery?

System of taxation?

Is there a monetary system? Multiple currencies? How do people get paid?

Do unions exist?

More urban, more rural, or a mix?

Is social mobility an option?

Who is considered a professional and why?

How is food grown/obtained and by whom at what price?

Culture

Matriarchy, patriarchy, or something else?

Family structure?

How is reproduction handled?

Titles used? Based on socio-economic, sex or something else?

Does marriage exist? What is it based on?

Who raises the children?

What calendar is used?

Body language clues?

What is considered profane? Sacred?

How is food handled and prepared? Social or not?

What is the most common meal/drink?

Is there art? If so, what? Who gets to make it and who gets to enjoy it?

Is a history maintained? Do the people know it?

Education

Formal or informal? Types of education? Guilds?

Available to all or only certain groups?

Cost?

Written languages? Number who are literate?

Museums?

Religion

Does it exist? If so, how many exist?

What do the people believe? Does this cause conflict?

How are non-believers handled?

Who practices, who leads, and who is suppressed?

What do the religious sites look like?

What are common superstitions?

Everyday Objects

What are buildings/structures like? Indulgent or functional?

What do people wear? Fashionable or functional? Associated with social class?

What is considered entertainment?

Are there festivals or celebrations? Why and what for? (Weddings, birthdays, coming of age, funerals?)

Magic or Technology

Who wields these powers? Is there a hierarchy?

How do they work?

Does the average person know this?

Are there limitations? Costs? Dangers?

How does the average culture feel about the magic or the technology? Source of tension?

Do the laws of physics work differently here? Why? How?

What is the average level of magic or technology?