

The Ultimate Worldbuilding Template

With a little help from blog.reedsy.com

BASICS

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ECONOMY

Trade & commerce

Transportation

Business

POLITICS

Government

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THE BASICS

What is your world called? _____

Is it set on:	
	th ernate Earth t Earth
Estimate it	s population:
	ence, describe your world.
S GEOG	GRAPHY TURAL WORLD
Howmoor	was the world created? How long ago was it created? do the laws of physics work? does the solar system move? What celestial beings exist (suns, stars, es, etc.) and how do they relate to the world?
Flora	and fauna
•	How does the flora differ from region to region? Do any plants have special or magical properties? Are any dangerous?

Creatures

•	What kind of wildlife roams which parts of your world? How did the wildlife evolve? Where are they most commonly found? Do mythical creatures such as dragons exist? How do they fit into the ecosystem?
Lands	scape
•	Where are the mountain ranges? Rivers? Forests? Deserts? Seas? How does the terrain interact with its inhabitants? Are there any "natural wonders" in your world? How were they formed?
Disea	ses
•	What natural diseases have evolved over time? How are they transmitted? How has this affected population growth?

LOCATIONS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	are the major cities in your world? Ports? Most populated opolises?
Is you	ur world split geographically? (e.g. rural and urban, north and south If so, how?
ctc.,	11 30, 110 W.
Capit	tal city
•	What is the capital city of the world? Why is it the capital?
Flags	and symbols
•	How does each city choose to represent itself (crest, flags,
	signature colors)?

♦ WEATHER

• What are the processes of your world that drive weather and ocean patterns?

•	Are c	ertain regions more vulnerable to certain weather conditions?
	Clima	ate
	•	How does the climate differ in each region? What are the seasons like in your world? How many seasons are there?
A F	PEOPL	.E
₽ R	ACES &	SPECIES
•	Xeno	intelligent species or races populate your world? Dwarves? Elves? morphs? Other? How did they come to exist?
•		does each race or species perceive each other? How do they co-exist?

Physical build

•	What do the inhabitants of your world look like? Do they have any distinguishing features? What is the societal standard for beauty? How might this differ in each region of the world?			
Mann	nerisms			
	What is the code of conduct between people of different ranks or			
•	classes? People of different cities or regions? Elders?			
•	How people in your world convey non-verbal boredom? Disbelief?			
•	Happiness? Impatience? Respect?			
•	What would be a gesture that is universally insulting in your world?			
	,			
Custo	oms and rituals			
•	Are there any rites of passages in your world? "Coming of age"			
	celebrations? If so, what age marks the transition from child to			
	adult?			
•	What traditions surround death and burial? What about			
	engagements and proposals of marriage?			

	Easti				
	Festivals				
	•	What are the important festivals of your world and why are they celebrated?			
Ģ LA	NGUA	GES			
•	Which	many languages exist in your world? How did they originate? h language is spoken most? Is there a universal language? do the names differ in each region?			
	Sayin	gs			
	•	What are common sayings? Idioms? Insults? "Untranslatable" words that only a certain group of people would understand?			

Accents

	•	If different languages exist, how does this affect the accents in your world? What do the accents say about the person (place of origin, social class, level of education, etcetera)?
	Greet	ings
	•	How do people of the same race greet each other? How do people of different races greet one another?
	•	Is there an informal and formal way to greet others depending on the level of familiarity (i.e. friends, acquaintances, elders,
		superiors, etcetera)? What are the proper forms of address?
₿ so	CIAL	FRAMEWORKS
•	What	do people see each other in your world? Foreigners? Non-humans? are the social taboos? What would one need to do in order to be d out of society?

Class or caste systems

- Is there a class system? If so, how much emphasis does society place on it?
- What are the tell-tale signs that a person belongs to a certain class?
- How does class affect the business in your world? Can anyone become a priest or a wizard — or is it a privilege restricted to certain members of the hierarchy?

Family structure

- What is the normal family unit?
- What is the social system within a family unit in your world? Patriarchal? Matriarchal?

• What constitutes a good father? A good mother? A good child?

Marriage

- How is marriage defined in your world? Is marriage a civil or religious institution?
- Do people marry for love? If not, why do they marry?



THISTORY

- How did civilization begin?
- What were the significant wars that have taken place on your world's soil? How have they shaped the present?
 When was the earliest known record of history?

•	Canyo	was the earliest known record of history? Dur world's history be divided into significant eras (e.g. Georgian, Tian, Edwardian, etcetera)?
	Myths	
	•	What myths exist in your world to explain the cosmos? How might this have in turn shaped religion?
	•	How were stories passed through generations?
⊕ CI	JLTURE	
•	What	s culture preserved in your world? are some things that define each culture? What would a person from
		ain city, region, or country be proudest of?

Litera	ature, art, and music
•	What is the role of the arts in your world's culture? How is it perceived by society and how has it evolved? Who are some celebrated or noted artists in history? What for? How might the arts have changed as a result of outside influences (from other regions, cities, races, etcetera)? Are any of the arts taboo? If so, why?
Cloth	ing
•	What is the customary dress for men? Women? What fashion is trending and how does this differ from region to region? How does the clothing one wears reflect status? What is the dress code for each profession? How strictly followed must it be?

Cuisine

- What are the regional dishes? How might this differ depending on the climate and environment?
- Is there a difference between what the poor and the rich eat? What is considered a luxurious food? What is considered a staple food?
- How are mealtimes approached? Is there a set hour to be at the table? Are there traditions that precede or follow a meal?

 RE	LIGIO	N
•		do people worship in your world? and where do people worship?
	Cada	and deities
	Goas	and deities
	•	Who are the major and minor gods that people worship? What function do the gods serve in society?
	Holy	texts
	•	What (if any) holy texts exist? How well-known are the scriptures? Would people of all ages be able to recite them on the spot if asked?

	Significant prophets
	 Who are the important religious figures in the world? For what reason are they significant?
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₩ EL	DUCATION
•	Does formal education exist? If so, who can access it? The rich? The clergy? Everyone in the general population? If magic exists in your world, how is it studied? Do schools exist to train it? What are literacy rates among the general population? How does this affect communication and the distribution of information?
⊗ LE	ISURE
•	How do people spend their leisure time in your world? What forms of entertainment are most common? Are there any organized sports in your world? How might its rules and regulations differ from the ordinary (i.e. Quidditch)?

ECH	NOLOGY, MAGIC, & WEAPONS
AGIC S	YSTEM(S)
What What	at ends and purposes is magic used in your world? Who can use it? limits are there to its power? What are the consequences of using it? is the history of magic and magicians in your world? loes society view magic? Positively? Negatively? As the Other?
Rules	of magic
	How does magic work in your world? Where does it come from? Is there a language that's needed in order to call forth magic? If so, what are its roots? Is magic regulated in any way? What is the governing body?
•	is magic regulated in any way: what is the governing body:

Practitioning magicians

- What are magicians' status in society? Are they trusted advisors of kings or charlatans on the road?
- How many magicians exist in your world? How do they perceive one another?

<u>&</u> т	ECHNOLOGY
•	
•	How advanced is the technology in your world? How does it work? How does technology impact the different parts of society? Transportation? Communication? Medicine? How does magic and technology interact and co-exist? Is it a rivalry? A co-
	op? Are there rules and regulations?
× w	/EAPONRY
•	What weapons are predominant in your world (ranged, combat, anti-gravity, etcetera) and why?
	Who makes the weapons? How do they work? Is it easy to obtain them?
·	who makes the weapons. How do they work. Is it easy to obtain them.

Signature weapons

• Are there special weapons (e.g. Thor's Hammer, Captain America's shield, etcetera)? How are they made? How many of them exist in the world?

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Commo	n weapons
• A	re there any weapons that are so commonplace that every
h	ousehold owns it? If so, what?
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	re there professions that necessitate the bearing of weapons?
V	Vhat about religions (i.e. the Sikhs who carry daggers)?
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ECONOMY

TRADE & COMMERCE

- How is trade facilitated? Is it carried out by traveling merchants? By a guild? Are there auctions?
- What cities, countries, or regions are allies? Trade partners? How has this changed throughout history?
- How is the soft power of a region, city, or country determined?

Curre	ncy
•	Is there a universal currency? If not, what are the regional
	currencies? What is the valuation?
•	How is the currency circulated and what are the denominations? Can the currency be broken down into units (dollars, cents, dimes, quarters)?
	quarters):
Maior	imports & exports
Major	Imports a exports
•	What are the major exports of the region or city? Imports? How might this have evolved throughout history?
•	Does a particular region specialize in particular trade (i.e.
	Livestock, weaponry, etcetera)? Why?
	Livestock, weaponity, electeral. winy.

Natural resources

• What resources are natural in each part of your world? How does this affect trade and trade relationships?

4 1	RANSPO	DRTATION
•	transp How is	asy it is to travel within a city and outside of a city? What modes of portation exist (horse, anti-gravity car, etcetera)? Is information disseminated all over your world (ink and paper, owl, aper, messenger)?
§ B	USINESS	5
	34/1 (
•		crafts or trades are highly valued in your world? ome professions considered more elite or respectable than others? o?
•	How d	o people advance in their fields? Are there apprenticeships? How s social mobility?
•	What	is the normal work schedule for the average person? What is the ge income?
		·



▲ GOVERNMENT

•		is the form of government? Is it a monarchy? Republic? Empire?
•		cracy? are the responsibilities of the government? How far does the
•		rnment's sphere of influence spread (magic, religion, etcetera)?
•		is the government perceived? Is it trusted by the people or is there
	tensi	on?
LA	W	
•		is the rule of law in your world? How is law? What are the most
		rtant laws?
•	What	are the punishments for breaking the law?
	Justi	ce systems
	•	What is the legal process in your world? How are people tried?
	•	How does magic fit into the legal system? Is it above the law?

War syste	e m s			

- How is war declared? Is there a formal process that a country must go through in order to engage in war?
- What is the command structure of the army?

How big is the army? Is it composed of humans? Non-humans? Both?