World Building Worksheet

This is an extra resource to go along with the original article: Fantasy World Building 101: How to Create a Breathing World for Your Fantasy Novel

Time

If you could compare the era of your story to one on earth, when would it be? In the present? In the past? In the future?

___________________________________________________

Location

What is the settling of your world?

___________________________________________________

Does it take place in a parallel universe?

___________________________________________________

Is it on another earth-like planet?

___________________________________________________

Does it occur in another dimension?

___________________________________________________
Population

Who lives in your world? Are they humans, aliens, animals, insects, hybrids, monsters?

____________________________________________________________________________

What is the population?

____________________________________________________________________________

Are there multiple races?

____________________________________________________________________________

Is there tension between the races?

____________________________________________________________________________

What distinguishes the races?

____________________________________________________________________________

Where do they live? Do they live in small villages or large cities?

____________________________________________________________________________

What type of living arrangements do they have? Do they live in houses? Tents? Communes?

____________________________________________________________________________

Society

How does your collective population relate to each other?

____________________________________________________________________________

What is the basis for society?

____________________________________________________________________________

Is there a class system? Who is rich? Who is poor?
How do the different classes relate to each other?

Can one go from poor to rich and vice versa?

What is the family structure?

Are couples married? Are they monogamous? Polygamous?

Do they have children?

How many children do they typically have?

What are people’s values?

What is sacred?

What is universally accepted as right and wrong?

How do they deal with old age?

What are the gender roles?
History

What is the history of your fantasy world?

What created the current circumstances of the story?

What is the catalyst for change?

Laws and Government

What are the relevant laws in your universe that the characters must obey?

What is the political environment?

Who are the controlling parties and why?

Is there a struggle for independence? Is there growing dissent?
How does magic affect these laws?

____________________________________________________________________________

Magic

What type of magic will you include in your story?

____________________________________________________________________________


____________________________________________________________________________

Who has the magic?

____________________________________________________________________________

Is magic only available to a select few? If so, how do they get it?

____________________________________________________________________________

Is magic banned?

____________________________________________________________________________

Is magic respected?

____________________________________________________________________________

What are the rules of magic in your world?

____________________________________________________________________________

Daily Life

What do people do to pass the time?

____________________________________________________________________________
What do they eat? Drink?

____________________________________________________________________________

Do they exercise?

____________________________________________________________________________

What type of clothing do they wear?

____________________________________________________________________________

Does clothing reflect their values or their social class?

____________________________________________________________________________

How are they educated?

____________________________________________________________________________

What do they learn in school and why?

____________________________________________________________________________
Sentiment

How do your characters feel about the world in which they live?

____________________________________________________________________________

What do people agree with?

____________________________________________________________________________

How do people differ?

____________________________________________________________________________
Religion

What is the name of the prevailing religion?
__________________________________________________________

Are the characters monotheistic? Polytheistic? Atheistic?
__________________________________________________________

What is their folklore?
__________________________________________________________

What do the characters believe?
__________________________________________________________

What do they value?
__________________________________________________________

Physical Attributes

What does the world look like in a physical sense?
__________________________________________________________

What are the natural resources?
__________________________________________________________

What type of plants grow there?
__________________________________________________________

What type of animals?
__________________________________________________________

What is the atmosphere?
How does the world smell?

What does the night’s sky look like?

Is there night?

What is the climate?