

The Scribophile Worldbuilding Workbook

Now that your world is starting to come alive in your mind, it's time to finesse the details. Remember that you don't need to include all of these traits in your actual story, but it helps to have them in your head as you write so that your world feels more alive and distinct.

These questions will help you expand on the concepts we explored in our worldbuilding article. You'll also find a handy notes section at the end for you to record anything else that might come to mind as you work through this questionnaire.

Ready to begin building a universe?

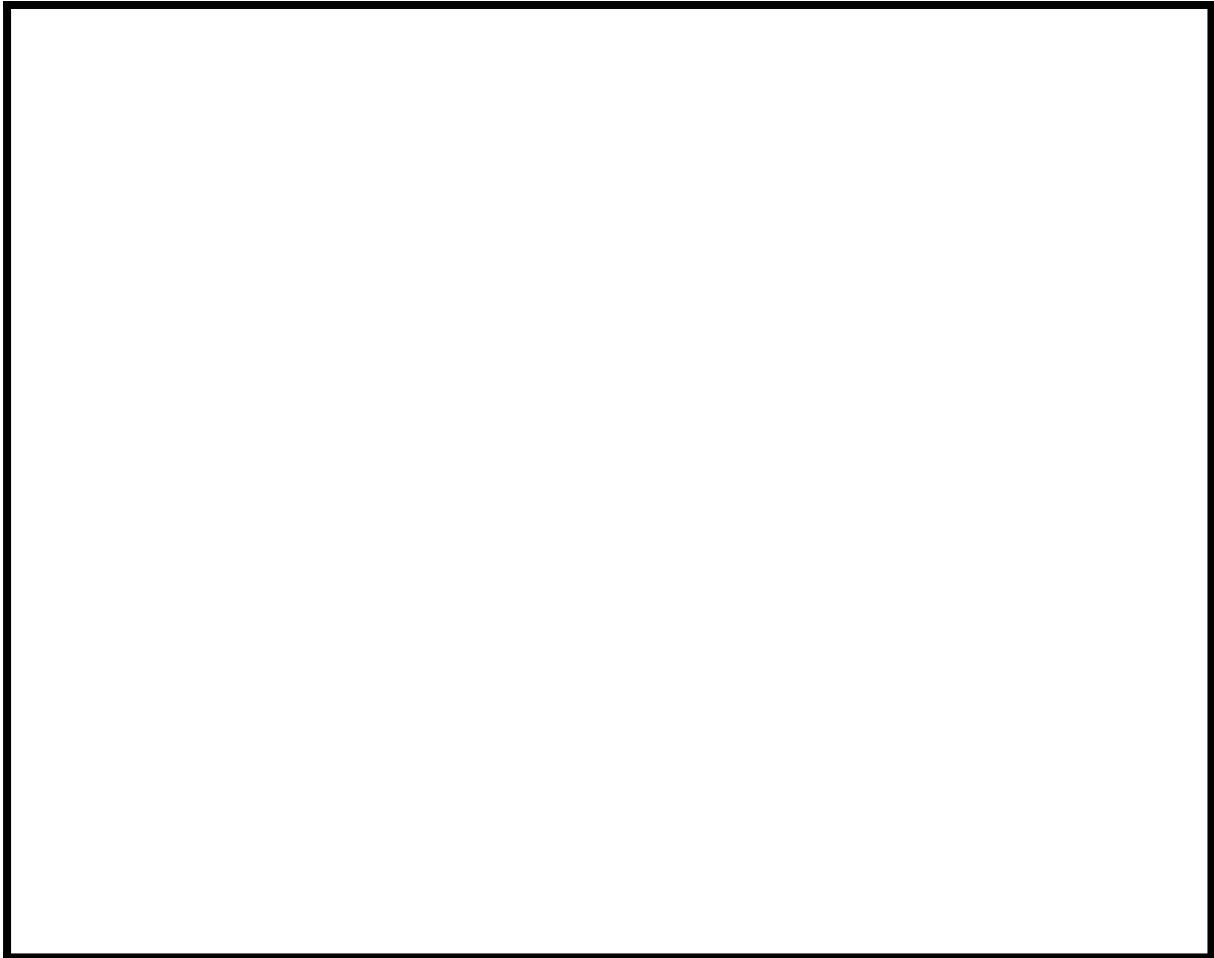
People

1. How many different races of people do you have?
2. Are your world's people human? If not, what are their distinguishing characteristics?
3. How do the different races of people feel about each other? Are there any alliances or rivalries?
4. Describe the population density of your world. Are people forced to live in close proximity, or are they spread far apart?
5. What does a normal family look like?
6. How do people dress?
7. What is a person's average life expectancy?

Geography

1. Describe the landscape of your world. Is it made from forests, mountains, water, desert, frozen tundra?
2. What does the night sky look like?
3. How many countries or continents does your world have?
4. How many major cities does your world have?
5. What does the architecture look like?
6. Is your society aware of other planets?

7. Draw a map!



Map of my awesome world

Ecosystem

1. Describe the weather of your world.
2. What kinds of unusual animals does your world have?
3. How many seasons does your world have, and how long are they?
4. What sort of natural resources are readily available, and what resources are hard to find?
5. Have any major conflicts arisen from environmental issues?
6. Are there any dangerous animals?
7. What kind of unusual plants does your world have?

8. How do the plants and animals interact in your world? Do they have symbiotic relationships, or are they a threat to each other?
9. Are any of the plants particularly dangerous, helpful, or coveted?

Language

1. What language do your characters speak?
2. Is there one universal language, or many?
3. Does one language have different dialects?
4. Are people encouraged to learn more than one language?
5. Do your people use any slang or impolite phrases?

Economy

1. How do people pay for things in your world?
2. Does your world have any unusual careers?
3. Are there protections in place for the poor?
4. How are people taxed?
5. Do different societies have trade agreements in place?
6. What are your society's prominent industries?

Culture and Religion

1. What higher power(s), if any, do people follow?
2. Are there different belief systems that are in conflict?
3. What do places of worship look like?
4. What holidays are celebrated?
5. What is your world's attitude towards artistic expression?
6. What are your world's funerary practices?

7. What are your world's wedding practices?
8. What are your world's birth practices?
9. Do your people have special clothes for certain occasions?
10. What are people most afraid of?

Social Construction

1. Describe your world's political system.
2. Is society largely patriarchal, matriarchal, or something else?
3. What role does gender play in society?
4. What happens if a member of society falls ill?
5. How do people, on average, feel about their leaders?
6. How wide is the gap between the rich and the poor?
7. Are there distinct social classes?
8. Is there a public education system? Who has access to education?
9. What laws are in place in your world?
10. Is there a policing system?
11. What are the punishments, if any, for those who break the law?
12. What are some major historical events which have shaped your world?
13. How do people communicate over distances?
14. Do people need permission or documentation to travel?
15. What modes of transportation are available?
16. How do people mark the passage of time?

Magic

1. Are practitioners born with magic, or is it obtained?

2. What is magic capable of?
3. What is magic not capable of?
4. How does a practitioner summon or channel their power?
5. Does a practitioner need external tools such as wands or amulets?
6. Where does magic come from (ie. the divine, the human body, the landscape)?
7. What is society's attitude towards magic?
8. Is there a class system of magic practitioners?
9. What is the cost of using magic?
10. Are there different types of magic in your world?
11. Are there societal laws specific to magic users?
12. Does your world have any magical creatures?

Technology

1. Does technology follow the physical laws of our world (ie gravity, mass, etc)?
2. Are there restrictions on who can access technology?
3. Does artificial intelligence exist in your world? If so, how does it interact with your society?
4. What types of technology are common in every household?
5. Have conflicts arisen because of technological advances?

Extra notes!

