

Build-A-World Workshop

By Jenai May

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world name/type

HIGH HARD
FANTASY SCI-FI ALT-HISTORY DYSTOPIAN HISTORICAL FUTURISTIC _____PUNK _____
low soft

THE GEOGRAPHY

GENERAL FEATURES – Mountains, Seas, Lakes, Rivers, Deserts, Islands, Craters, Canyons...

FLORA – Trees, Shrubs, Fungi/Moss,
Seaweed, Fruit, Medicinal, Enchanted...

FAUNA – Rodents, Herding Animals, Birds,
Fish, Reptiles, Magical or Mythical...

CLIMATE AND CLIMATE ZONES – Tropics, Arctic, Temperate, Significant Weather Patterns...

IN THE SKIES – Suns, Moons, Cloud Types, Sky Color, Nearby Planets, Comets, Scent of Air...

MINERALS – Volcanic, crystals, building materials, dyes, medicinal, sands...

RESOURCES – Corn crops, fuel types, lumber, dyes, fabric, fibers, paper content...

SEASONS & THE YEAR – What are the seasons? Where do they occur and for how long? How long is a year? A day? Major seasonal weather events? How is the year tracked and divided?

LISTING LANDMARKS

SEAS, LANDMASSES, MAJOR BOUNDARIES

CITIES, SETTLEMENTS, KINGDOMS

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HISTORIC ERAS – Examples: Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance, Enlightenment, Tech Revolution...

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HIDDEN HISTORY – Prehistory, Unrecorded, Destroyed History, Coverups...

CONSPIRACIES – The Black Death came from space, Pyramids were built by demonic rats...

CORRUPTION – The King poisoned his cousin, the headmaster was bribed for admission...

THE HISTORIC RECORD – Who records and studies history? Where are records kept? Is there a system? What is the oldest record? Who wrote it? How old is it? How was it recorded? Can modern people read it?

POLITICS FOR THE WIN

Choosing a Leader

Conquer, Royal Lines, Let’s Vote, Tyranny...

Divisions of Power – Lords, Serfs, Banks, CEOs? Religious and Military elite?

Government Nuts & Bolts

Houses? Factions? Schedules? Terms?

[illegible]

Political Tensions

Agendas, Checks & Balances, Corrupt?

POLITICAL PURPOSE AND STORY INFLUENCE – What does this political system stand for?

What is its influence on the world around it?

[illegible]

GODS AND GHOSTS

Religions – How many? Which is primary?

Are there conflicts between them?

Deities – Is there one God? Multiple? List those most relevant to the story (flip over to list more)

The Afterlife – Predominant afterlife belief?

Punishment & Reward? Do ghosts roam?

Superstitions – What influences luck? Black cats? 4-Leaf Clover? Are there days to be wary of?

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS – What is the central message of this religion? How old is this religion?

Written religious texts? What do these texts teach? Is the content restricted to a select few or widely available to everyone?

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A MAGICAL REALM

Magic Types – Elemental, Blood, Mysteries, Time, Science (alchemy), Psychic, Space, Light, Dark...

Ethics – Rules governing how to use magic? Regulations? Repercussions? Balances?

Becoming Magical – Born with magic? Inherited? Non-human? Is it taught and learned? Do potions grant it? How? Why?

Reputation of Magic – Feared or revered? Accepted or shunned? Common or rare?

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LISTING MAGICAL THISES & THATS

Sticks and Stones – Natural magical items,
such as rocks, crystals, seeds, woods...

Star Helpers – List celestial influences: stars,
constellations, moon phases, comets...

Tools – List tools the magical system uses,
such as a wand, staff, cauldron, goblets,
tarot cards, candles...

Magical in Name – What are wielders of
magic called and how do they differ?
Witches, wizards, mages, sorcerers...

[illegible][illegible]

[illegible][illegible]

SCIENCY STUFF

Remarkable Feats – Most impactful tech in this world? In the story? How did it develop and why?

Ye Olde Tech – Obsolete past tech. Is it missed? What replaced it? Why?

Origins of Discovery – What influenced tech? Alien contact? Wars? Medical necessity? Was it sheer luck?

Societal Effects – Does the science/tech unite people or divide them? How and why?

[illegible]

LAB LISTS

Staying in Touch – How people communicate. Audio, written, video, holograms, social media...

Home Doodads – Cool gadgets for every room... What is their purpose? Who owns them? Cons?

From Here to There – The latest transportation methods. Flying cars, spaceships, hoverboards...

Medical Marvels – How has medicine changed? Transporter treatments, scanners, bio implants...

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