

# Worldbuilding Questions

## Questions About How the World Looks

- Is your world one concentrated area, or dispersed across different environments?
- What part of the world will the story take place in?
- What aspects of the physical terrain affect the story?
- How is the weather? Is it temperate or severe? What are its seasons?
- How does the landscape look?
- What are its borders?
- What languages are spoken?
- What natural resources are there?
- What are the cultures present and what are their cultural practices?

## Questions About the Characters or Inhabitants

- Are the inhabitants human, alien, magical beings, or hybrids?
- How many are there?
- Have they always lived there? If not, how did they come to live there?
- Do they have a class system? If yes, how is it defined?
- Do they have gender or race?
- How do the characters relate to one another?
- Who are their friends and enemies?
- What occupation do they have?

## Questions About the History of Your World

- What is the ruling system in place?
- Who has ruled the world throughout history?
- What major events have influenced this world's development?
- How have the leaders impacted the government—and consequently, life—in the world?
- Did anything historical happen recently?
- How did the country or settlement reach where it is now?
- Are there religious or political events in history that have an impact on your plot?
- Have there been any major environmental catastrophe, such as plagues, tsunamis, or famine? How have these events affected the land and the inhabitants?
- Has the country ever been at war? With whom? Is it at war now?

## Questions About Society and Its Rules

- What is the governmental structure of your world? Does it have a democratic, totalitarian, or authoritarian rule (or something in between)?
- Who has authority, power, or influence? Is it run by an individual, a family, or another group of people?
- Do the characters follow the rules, bend them, ignore them, or blatantly break them? What happens when they do this? Who administers justice, and how is it done?
- How do the characters view the rules? Do they see them as just and fair, or are they resentful of the rules?

## Questions About Social Customs, Religion, etc.

- What language habits do the people have? Are they talkative, or laconic?
- What major religious belief do they have? What gods do they have?
- Are the gods actively involved in the world?
- Do they go to a house of worship? What religious services do they have?
- What do the people consider sacred or holy? Do they revere certain objects or symbols?
- What religious rituals or customs do they have?
- How many of the people believe in that religious system?
- Are there other religious systems? How do people with different religious beliefs deal with one another?
- What major celebrations or festivals do the people hold?
- How long do the people work in a week?
- Are gender roles defined? How do people of different genders act?
- How do the people treat birthdays and death?
- Do they get to marry for love? Or are marriages arranged?
- What does marriage look like in your world?
- What actions are deemed immoral or improper?

## Additional Questions for Fantasy and Science Fiction World Building

- Is there magic? If so, how does it operate?
- Who has magic in your world? Where did the magic powers come from?
- Are there different skill levels for magic?
- What are the rules and limitations for the magic?
- What happens when the rules for magic are broken? Are there exceptions?
- What mythical creatures are in your world? Are they the same or different from existing creatures in other literary works?
- What powers do they have, if any?
- Which species are friendly and which are not?
- What languages do the creatures speak?