

The background features a light orange grid of dashed lines. Overlaid on this grid are numerous wavy, irregular lines in a slightly darker shade of orange, creating a topographical or abstract pattern. Some of these wavy lines are solid, while others are dashed, and they often form circular or oval shapes.

# World Building

Writing Class 4  
with Grace Siplon

The background features a light orange grid of dashed lines. Overlaid on this are several brown contour lines of varying shapes, some forming closed loops and others as long, winding paths. Scattered across the grid are several small, light blue 'x' marks, a cluster of light blue triangles, and a few light pink circles. A large, solid light blue shape on the right side of the image partially overlaps the grid and contour lines.

# What is World Building?

The comprehensive  
construction of a unique  
reality

# Hybrid World

A combination of our existing reality  
with a hidden world

## Examples

Harry Potter,  
Chronicles of  
Narnia, Stardust

## Pros

Requires less  
prep work,  
creates a sense of  
possibility for  
reader

## Cons

Can be restricting,  
need to provide  
believable  
explanation for  
its concealment

# Alternate World

A version of our reality that differs in some significant way, commonly set in the future

## Examples

His Dark Materials,  
Divergent

## Pros

Creates an established history, can be used for commentary

## Cons

Can be confusing, requires a lot of exposition

# New World

A world entirely of your own creation

## Examples

Lord of the Rings,  
Game of Thrones

## Pros

Limitless  
possibility,  
opportunity for  
creativity

## Cons

A lot of work to  
make

# World Building Checklist



## Religion

Is there an established religion in this world? Does it affect my characters?

## Good Example

Dune

## Less Good Example

Harry Potter

# World Building Checklist



## **Government**

Who is in charge? How do they get their power? Are they elected? How does this affect my characters?

## **Good Example**

Game of Thrones

## **Less Good Example**

Hunger Games



# World Building Checklist

## **Culture**

What are the cultural conventions of my world? How do they dress? What is the etiquette? Are there multiple cultures?

## **Good**

## **Example**

Lord of the Rings

## **Less Good**

## **Example**

Star Wars





# World Building Checklist

## Language

What language do they speak? Are there multiple languages? Do they use the same slang as us?

### Good

### Example

Firefly

### Less Good

### Example

His Dark Materials

# World Building Checklist



## Currency

What currency do they use? What's the conversion rate?

## Good Example

Stardust

## Less Good Example

Harry Potter

# World Building Checklist



## **Class/Social Structure**

Is there a social hierarchy? What determines it?

**Good**

**Example**

Carnival Row

**Less Good**

**Example**

Merlin



# World Building Checklist

## History

How did this world come to be? Do you have an origin story?

## Good

### Example

Game of Thrones

## Less Good

### Example

Howls Moving Castle

# World Building Checklist



## Magic System

Does magic exist? Who can use it? Where does it come from?

**Good**

**Example**

Harry Potter

**Less Good**

**Example**

Game of Thrones

# World Building Checklist



## Inspiration

Is your world inspired by something? An aesthetic or time period?

## Good Example

West World

## Less Good Example

Most Medieval Fantasy

# Worldbuilding Checklist

**Religion**

**Government**

**Culture**

**Language**

**Class/Social  
Structure**

**History**

**Magic System**

**Inspiration**

# Other Things to Consider

**Geography**

**Food**

**Music**

**Technology**

**Family Lines**

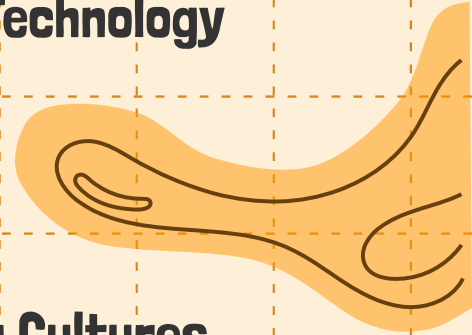
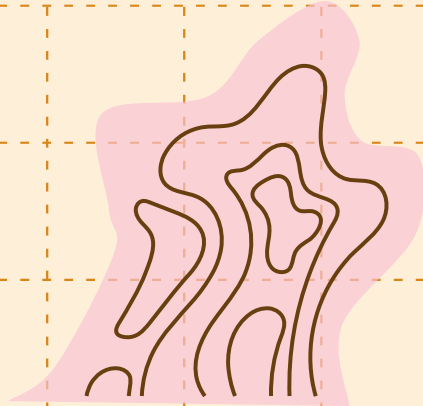
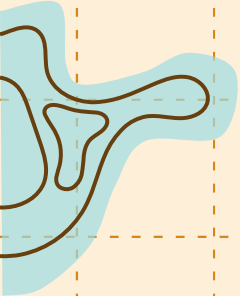
**Tradition**

**Transportation**

**Natural World**

**Animal Life**

**Surrounding Cultures**





# Lets Try it!

**Geography**

**Food**

**Music**

**Technology**

**Family Lines**

**Tradition**

**Transportation**

**Animal Life**

**Natural World**

**Religion**

**Government**

**Culture**

**Class/Social Structure**

**Language**

**History**

**Magic System**

**Inspiration**

**Surrounding Cultures**