

[WBG]

Worldbuilding General

Version 1.3



This document is a compilation of useful resources and links for Worldbuilding, Language Construction, and Map Making.

If there is a link or resource that you feel should be added, please post it in the daily general on /tg/ or contact us over at the /wbg/ discord.

<https://discord.gg/eGT6sqj>

GETTING STARTED

Throughout this pdf you'll find a lot of useful links and information to help you build your world. The following are some great jumping off points and essential links which should benefit most beginners.

- [Medieval Demographics Made Easy](#)
Everyone who plays or runs Fantasy games should read this, it's only about 6 pages. It has links to generators based on the data.
- [Donjon](#)
Huge collection of random generators including a very nice fractal World Generator with lots of cool options.
- [Magical Medieval City Guide Generation tables](#)
- [How to Design a Town Map](#)
- [Creation Workbooks](#)
Very nice collection of workbooks on characters, campaigns, and worldbuilding
- [Rivers Guide](#)
How to get your Rivers in the Right Place
- [Atomic Rockets](#)
A must-read for any sci-fi worldbuilder.
- [Worldbuilding Books](#)
System Agnostic stuff including a dozen of the best worldbuilding tutorials.

PLANNING

Having a place to organize your setting notes and info is useful, and while Google Docs and Sheets are the go-to for many people, some prefer something more specialized. Some are better suited to sharing your setting while others are private, and many offer a variety of useful features such as timelines and maps.

The most important thing to keep in mind when selecting the right place for your notes is to never use the search as an excuse to procrastinate.

- [Google Drive](#)
An online word processor, spreadsheet, and file management system.
- [Archivos](#)
An online app that lets you create a timeline, story map, and interactive world map. Define relationships between elements.
- [World Anvil](#)
A free online wiki for worldbuilding. Public, with paid options for privacy.
- [WikiDot](#)
A private, personal wiki that allows collaborators to join with permission.
- [Ginko App](#)
An online app that lets you create nested notecards and outlines.
- [Zim Wiki](#)
A desktop app for organizing notes/writing.
- [OneNote](#)
Microsoft's note organizer- the online version.
- [Drive Thru RPG's PDF creation advice, publishing advice](#)
An article with advice on PDF creation.
- [Family Echo](#)
A family tree builder, useful for mapping out lineages.
- [Flow chart maker](#)
Links with Google Drive and allows you to create flow charts.

CARTOGRAPHY

Maps are an important part of any setting, and often prove difficult for less artistic worldbuilders. However, there are many programs and guides that can help with this process. There are also map generators, which can be useful as inspiration or a jumping off point.

Map Making Programs:

- [Inkarnate, an in-browser free map making program.](#)
- [Other World Mapper](#)
- [Map making program that uses tectonic plates](#)

Map Making Resources:

- [Trove of Map Making resources for photoshop](#)
- [Photoshop map generating pattern+action](#)
- [Graph paper in custom sizes](#)
- [Fantasy cartography brushpack \(Paid\)](#)

Map Generators:

- [City](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Town](#)
- [Town](#)
- [Fantasy Settlements](#)
- [Generates kingdoms](#)
- [Kingdom pop generation](#)
- [Town pop generation](#)
- [Planet](#)
- [World](#)
- [City Generator, draws streets where you click](#)
- [Island Generator](#)
- [Polygon Map Generation](#)

CARTOGRAPHY

In addition to the technical and artistic side of map-making, there's a great deal of knowledge and skill involved with cartography. Placement of rivers and mountains, types of coasts, and many other factors can make a huge difference in the quality of a map. Below are tutorials, guides, and reference for this subject.

Cartography Tutorials and Guides:

- [Tutorials](#)
- [Hacking Inkarnate](#)
- [How to draw a map](#)
- [Coastlines](#)
- [Rivers](#)
- [Photoshop tutorial by Cartographers Guild member](#)
- [Planet mapping](#)
- [Cartography guide](#)
- [Cartographer's Guild Forum](#)
- [Elyden- Fantasy Cartography](#)
- [Quick Guides trove](#)
- [Map making books trove](#)

Examples, Reference:

- [Contains encyclopedias for geography. Caves, islands, deserts, etc.](#)
- [Interactive Topographic Program](#)
- [Map Examples](#)
- [Historical map territories](#)
- [Interactive 3D Galaxy Program](#)
- [3D Space Simulator](#)

GENERATORS

Generators can be useful for coming up with a long list of names, or for randomly assigning towns their populations. Below are generators of all sorts.

Generators:

- [Name Generator](#)
- [Chaotic Shiny](#)
- [Seventh Sanctum](#)
- [Donjon](#)
- [Generator list](#)
- [RPG 20](#)
- [Weird Items](#)
- [Instant population generator. For D&D but can work for other fantasy settings](#)
- [List of Generators on /r/Worldbuilding](#)
- [The Naming of Places](#)
- [Nested, a world generator](#)

USEFUL LINKS

Writing Guides:

- [Big List of Worldbuilding Resources](#)
- [Coordination, Correlation, and Subordination](#)
- [The Art of Storytelling](#)
- [A lot of writing advice](#)
- [A trove of writing ebooks](#)
- [Worldbuilding guide part 1](#)
- [Video Lectures on fantasy and SciFi writing](#)

Sci-Fi:

- [Military Science Fiction Blog](#)
- [Atomic Rockets - Lots of information for SciFi](#)
- [Military Science Fiction](#)

Fantasy/ Medieval:

- [Fantasy Worldbuilder Guide](#)

LANGUAGE

Conlang Resources:

- [Language construction kit](#)
- [Word generator](#)
- [Conlang Subreddit](#)
- [Conlang thesaurus](#)
- [Language construction tool](#)
- [Paid version of vulgarlang.com](#)
- [Pronounces any word](#)

Videos:

- [Conlang basics by Artifexian](#)
- [47 minute lecture about various writing styles](#)

CULTURE

Culture Resources:

- [On designing cultures](#)

African:

- [Precolonial Warfare in Africa \(Military History\)](#)
- [States of the Zimbabwe Plateau and Zambezi Valley \(Afr.Std.\)](#)
- [Asante and the Akan and Mossi States \(African Studies\)](#)
- [Trans-Saharan Trade \(African Studies\)](#)
- [Early States of the Western Sudan \(African Studies\)](#)
- [Ethiopia \(African Studies\)](#)
- [Madagascar \(African Studies\)](#)
- [Cambridge History of Africa - from 500 BC](#)
- [Ancient Egypt](#)

Western:

- [42 minute lecture of Roman architecture](#)
- [Invicta Youtube Channel](#)

Eastern:

- [Encyclopedia of History for Ancient Asia](#)
- [China, by Rossabi - details ALL the history of China](#)

INSPIRATION

Inspiration resources:

- [Gain inspiration from magic card pack openings. Video example.](#)
- [Modern Firearms](#)
- [User generated lists typically for D&D, but may give you ideas anyway](#)
- [Museum exhibits photographed by Curator. Jewellery, bottles, etc.](#)
- [Imaginary characters, landscapes, monsters and technology](#)
- [A list of the imaginary landscapes network.](#)
- <https://www.reddit.com/r/ImaginaryRuins/>
- <https://www.reddit.com/r/ImaginaryUndead/>
- <https://www.reddit.com/r/ImaginaryDerelicts/>
- <https://www.reddit.com/r/ImaginaryFallout/>
- [Pick a country and time period and enjoy the music stylings of the time](#)
- [Annotated bibliographies](#)

Random Magic Resources/Possible Inspiration:

- <http://www.darkshire.net/jhkim/rpg/magic/antiscience.html>
- <http://sacred-texts.com/index.htm>
- <https://mega.nz/#F!AE5yjIqB!y7Vdxdb5pbNsi2O3zyq9KQ>

Random Historical resources/inspiration:

- <http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/index.html>
- <http://bestiary.ca/>
- <https://www.reddit.com/r/AskHistorians/wiki/books/>

VIDEOS

Documentaries:

- [Dark ages](#)
- [Zeus](#)

Map Making:

- [wasd20 mapmaking video tutorial](#)
- [Questing beast's video tutorials](#)
- [Adobe Photoshop map tutorial; stylized design](#)

Constructed Languages:

- [Conlang basics by Artifexian](#)
- [47 minute lecture about various writing styles](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

Recommended purchases

- [Kobold's Guide to Worldbuilding](#)
- [How to Draw Fantasy Art and RPG Maps: Step by Step Cartography for Gamers and Fans](#) by Jared Blando

Youtube Channels:

- [Artifexian](#) (Mapmaking, some conlang)
- [Wasd20](#) (various D&D topics, but useful map making videos)
- [Questing Beast](#) (Map making tutorials, videos and old school RPG stuff)

Miscellaneous Resources:

- [Art stuff](#)
- [Systems Agnostic material](#)
- [God tier Worldbuilding Resource Repository](#)