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Fantasy L.A.N.D.

Natural Environment text version of video

Hey storyteller, it's Alexis from purpleshelfclub.com and welcome to Fantasy L.A.N.D. This is part 3, Section 4, your world's flora and fauna.

We're going to come up with fantasy creatures and any normal creatures we want for our story, come up with fantasy flora and any normal plants we want for our story, then add these to our bestiary and floral journals.

Ready? Let's begin.

Bestiary and Floral Journal

Time to open that bestiary document I created for you and start coming up with amazing, fantastical creatures. While we create our creatures, I want you to keep in mind what biomes and climates they would be found in, which is why we did those steps first.

The first step is to fill out the bestiary and floral pages for any creatures and plants you've already decided you wanted to include in your story. This can be based purely from imagination or from what you've created in your lore and advancement stages.

In my case, I knew I wanted nature spirits for each element, which means my bestiary will automatically include:

- Nature spirits:
 - gnome-like creatures
 - water spirits: fae nymphs (water sprites)

- air spirits: crane wisps (mixing a wisp spirit with the crane bird)
- life spirit : humanoid butterflies

Then, in my gnome civilization, I said that gnomes often have animal companions. So, I thought about what animals would make sense for them:

- forest (skunk, porcupine, red fox, squirrels, racoon, blue jay, owls, hawks)
- underground (gopher, prairie dogs, badgers, ferrets, fox, lizards, salamanders)
- mountain (goats, sheep, llamas, deer, raven, hawk)

Next, my other civilization is humans, so I looked to what animals made sense for them, particularly as it related clothing:

- sheep
- llamas
- alpacas

Lastly, I referred to my biomes to decide what animals would be in this world:

- bears
- wolves
- coyotes
- deer
- bobcats
- frogs
- turtles
- pronghorn
- bison

Alright, now I've exhausted what I already knew about my world. I can stop here and say those are all the creatures I want unless I come up with something in my writing. In this case, I would simply add to my bestiary when the creativity strikes writing my book. Or we can keep going now.

For me, I decided to add my nature spirits to my bestiary but all the normal animals to my biomes sheet. This is just my preference because I only want magical creatures in my bestiary.

And the same went for my floral journal, I followed the same process as I did with my bestiary. So only magical plants would go into my floral journal.

In my story, I mentioned back in the Lore that there was this Fern myth I liked. I took that and decided that myth would be applied to land, water, and air. And I'll explain that in a minute how I came up with those. First, I want to address herbalism because it's a popular aspect of fantasy stories. When I first looked into this, I knew I wanted herbal medicine to be incorporated in my story but I all of a sudden felt like I needed to learn it like the back of my hand.

Now the bonus to this is that I have an interest in this topic. I already have a course on herbal medicine. But still, there is just too much to know for you to learn it and then apply it to your world building. So, here's what I suggest you do should this be an element you want in your story.

Get an herbalism book, course or even a field guide or two. When herbs are needed in your story, say when someone falls ill or gets injured, then grab that book or field guide to figure out what would be the correct thing to do.

If you already know some situations, then go ahead and add those herbs to your floral journal.

Okay, last step, how do you come up with fantasy creatures and plants to add to your story?

You can:

- Use the resources in the directory to find out about fantasy creatures and plants that already exist
- Look to your civilization inspirations mythology. For me that would be the polish mythology
- Use generators
- Mix and match real and fantasy animals and plants to come up with your own
- Add fantastical elements to what flora and fauna exist in real life

So let's go through a couple of mine to show you a little more in depth.

The first creature I decided on was an Indrik, now as you can see from the picture I pulled, this creature already exists in the fantasy world. But I chose this one because I thought it would be an interesting alternative to deer which is a common animal in my forest biome. And as you can see I also pinpointed where they can be found in my world. For each bestiary entry, you have two pages and you don't have to fill out all the information either. Some of it may not apply. You can also take the viewpoint of what people in your world know about these creatures, which could be a lot for one creature but very little for another. Some information I came up with on my own and some I used resources on indriks to fill out. In fact, I did this mixture for every fantasy creature I came up with.

I used the polish mythology as well as mixing and matching real and fantastical creatures to come up with my creatures for my story.

Conversely, in the floral journal, I knew I wanted a land, water, and air plant that was magical according to that fern myth I liked.

So, I looked up some real plants and then added the fantastical elements to them and gave them slightly new names and visual descriptions. And as you can see, I didn't add a map with the location, because the people in my world don't know where these magical plants are.

Okay, in this section, we came up with fantasy creatures and any normal creatures we wanted for our story, came up with fantasy flora and any normal plants we wanted for our story, then added these to our bestiary and floral journals.

In the next lesson, we're going to explore the defined conventions of your world. Think magic systems and militaries. But before you move on to the next part of Fantasy L.A.N.D. I strongly encourage you to fill out the Natural Environment worksheets, your bestiary, and your floral journal, then add it, along with any resources relevant from the directory to your storyteller binder or wherever you want to keep your world building materials. If you have any questions or requests, let me know in the chat.

When you're ready, I'll see you in the Defined Conventions portion of Fantasy L.A.N.D.