

Ash Renlee's Wilderness Setting Guide

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Place Name / Type:

If this place has a specific name like the Rocky Mountains or Mississippi River put it here, otherwise just specify what type of place this is (desert, waterfall, jungle, field, valley, tropical island, arctic tundra, etc.).

Meaning:

If named, how did this place get its name? If not, put 'none' or leave blank.

Located:

How would we find this place on a map? In what dimension, world, country, and/or area, is this setting? Where are the boundaries for the area and what marks them? What similar settings could be tied to this one?

Example: a valley could also contain a grove, river, meadow, village, etc.

Location	
Boundaries	
Related Places	

Role in story:

What happens here? Why is this place important? How does it contribute to the story? What does this place mean to the character(s)? What memories, fears, dreams, or emotions arise from the place itself? Is there something here that is similar to a past experience or future expectation? What does this place make them think of?

*Your setting should be used with purpose to help steer the plot. Try to set a mood, test obstacles, learn new information, display symbolism, foreshadow an event, or challenge/develop/explore the backstory of a character.

Role	
Character Emotions	

Mood:

During your story what vibe does the area give off? How do you want your readers/character(s) to feel while here?

Climate / Weather:

What is the average climate/weather here? Does it change? What about temperature? How many seasons are there? If the setting doesn't change and/or the story spends a lot of time here, describe the seasons.

Description:

Give an overall description of the area as a whole. Are there any important or convenient landmarks like an easily recognized rock, a path, a fence, an inn? A safe area or a known danger zone? Use senses to provide details of what it is like to stand in this place.

Landmarks	
Sights	
Smells	
Sounds	
Textures / Sensations	
Tastes	

Resources:

What is valuable about this place? What can be used and what is it used for? List the three that are most important. These can be natural or man-made resources, such as water, minerals, rare plants, a station or lab, livestock etc.

Resource	
Use	

Resource	
Use	

Resource	
Use	

Inhabitants:

What type of people, animals, plants, or objects are in this setting? List as many as you can. Put 'none' if needed. Note: this could include created or fantasy races, monsters, and beasts as well.

*Use the setting to your advantage. What could be a danger, used as a weapon, trigger an emotional breakdown or inspire a plan?

People	
Animals / Insects	
Plant Life	
Objects	

Potential Dangers / Conflicts:

Name at least three things in this setting that could pose a danger or a threat. Consider both small/large threats (quicksand, extreme temperatures, poisonous plants, wild animals, insect swarms) as well as natural disasters (tornados, mudslides, tsunami). Then describe what about this place could create obstacles, disagreements, or triggers for the character(s).

*Consider using at least some of these dangers/obstacles in your story. Adding a battle against the setting to a trial your character(s) are already engaged in, be it physical or mental, ups the tension of any scene.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Obstacles:**Survival:**

If a character was trapped or abandoned here, how would they obtain food, water, and shelter to survive? Would there be anything to help in a medical emergency? Note: look to inhabitants for an answer. If such an event would be fatal, make sure we know the stakes.

History:

Is this area unexplored/untouched or does it belong to a person, people, or country? Why would people come to or avoid this place? Are there any myths or legends surrounding this place? Does it have a dark past? Is there anything about this place that makes it stand out or special?

Extra Notes:

Any extra notes, diagrams, or info you need for your setting can be placed here:

Map

If you desire, you can draw or upload a map or diagram in the space provided:



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