

# *Frankenstein Background*

## *Webquest*

Directions: In order to gather some background information before reading the novel, you will be embarking on a webquest. Answer the questions below, using the suggested websites or others that you find appropriate (not Wikipedia), to help build your historical and social context of the novel. Please answer the questions on a separate sheet of paper. You may either type or write your answers; however, please be sure to answer in complete sentences.

### **Frankenstein - The Influences**

1. What is an epistolary novel?
2. Who is Luigi Galvan and how are his discoveries relevant to the novel?
3. Who was Prometheus in Greek mythology?
4. How might this myth relate to *Frankenstein* and why Mary Shelley titled the novel "The Modern Prometheus."

Helpful Websites:

[E-Notes Epistolary Novel](#)

[Galvanism](#)

[Frankenstein and the Prometheus Myth](#)

### **Romanticism and Gothic Literature - The Influences**

1. Uncover the foundations of Romanticism
  - Look at the art of the Romantic Era. What do the paintings tell you about the period?
  - What are some of the common themes and subject matters in Romantic literature?
  - Who are some of the famous Romantic authors of the time (think Europe - not America)?
2. Uncover the foundations of Gothic literature...
  - How did Gothic literature become a subgenre of Romanticism?
  - What are some of the common themes and subject matters?
  - What are the characters and settings like?
  - What is the mood or tone?
3. What are some examples of Gothic Literature? Give the author and title of two pieces of Gothic Literature that you are familiar with (this can be European or American).

Helpful Websites:

[Art of the Romantic Period](#)

[Mary Shelley and Gothic Literature](#)

[The Gothic Experience](#)

[Romantic and Gothic Literature](#)