

- would write ■ was to emerge ■ was going to change
- were about to develop ■ would spend
- were to become ■ would find

Science fiction: the early history

At the end of the 18th century, few people had any idea of how industrial capitalism ¹ the world. Modern scientists ² the technology to build large factories, rapid large-scale transportation and new energy sources. Soon, vast numbers of people ³ their lives working in factories, in coal mines, on railroads and on ships. Workers ⁴ alienated from the means of production and their own products and ⁵ themselves increasingly separated from nature and from each other.

One of the first works of modern science fiction ⁶ from this period: Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (1818). Less than a decade after *Frankenstein*, Shelley ⁷ one of the first science fiction visions of the end of the world; in her *The Last Man* (1826), the main character wanders alone over a dead planet, sampling the useless achievements of all human society. Mary Shelley set this scene in the year 2100.

