

BrainPOP Related Reading - Frankenstein

Immersive Reader

In the 18th century, Italian physician **Luigi Galvani** and his assistant conducted some famous experiments with electricity that may have given Mary Shelley some inspiration for her story.

Galvani's assistant was dissecting a frog on a table where Galvani had been working with static electricity. The assistant used a metal scalpel to touch a nerve in the frog's leg. The frog's leg jumped; the metal scalpel, which had picked up a charge from Galvani's experiments, had discharged its electricity and prompted movement in the animal's dead muscle.



Galvani conducted more experiments. He discovered that muscles could be made to move with electricity and figured out that electricity was connected to animal movement. Although Mary Shelley isn't clear about how Frankenstein animates his monster, many film adaptations suggest that Frankenstein uses electricity—a **galvanic spark!**—to bring his creation to life.