Science Fiction

Science fiction stories have existed since the industrial revolution, when people first started to consider the possibilities that science held for altering the world. Arguably the first science fiction story was Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, a thought-provoking tale that exemplified the possibilities of the genre by exploring the morality of people given new capabilities. Jules Verne and H.G. Wells popularised the innovative art form in the 19th century, and, with the invention of moving pictures, the boundaries were suddenly expanded with the fantastical imagery of the movie 'Metropolis'.

Predictably, radio broadcasters followed suit, and Orson Welles' adaptation of the book 'War of the Worlds' in the form of a commentator detailing the invasion of Earth allegedly caused panic among listeners who did not realise it was a story. Television spread the literary form yet further, and the world's longest-running sci-fi TV series, Doctor Who, recently celebrated its 55th year of the tales of a time-traveller, investigating the essence of humanity in the face of the new and unknown. Now, video games are exploring new dimensions, creating interactive worlds, encounters with aliens, and horrifying futures in franchises like Halo, Resident Evil, and Elite.

What was the first science fiction book?

What is the world's longest-running science fiction TV series?

What is your favourite science fiction story?