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Social studies: a boring class with no use in today's world. It doesn't matter to anyone today what happened to the Ottoman Turks, right? Wrong. I personally use my knowledge of history every day when I do creative writing. I use my social studies knowledge to understand my character's cultures, so my characters don't reference future events, and to make sure they act and do what people in their own time period and country would do.

I rely on my social studies knowledge when writing about my characters. In one story, I have John Hill, a soldier in a hospital during WWII. Since his story is set during World War II, I definitely can't have him talking about the Vietnam War. Any character must stay within their time period.

I use what I've learned in social studies to keep characters realistic. To make characters in the Islamic Empire believable, they must do things that people with their beliefs would do during their time period. If one character was a Shia Muslim, he would not think the Umayyad caliphs were the rightful rulers. He would probably have been a part of the 750 A.D. rebellion against the Umayyads. If he actually liked the Umayyads and thought they could rule, he would be a Sunni Muslim.

In social studies, I have learned about many different cultures and the similarities and differences between them. A medieval peasant in Italy would not have Incan beliefs. Even if he had a belief that seemed a bit similar, chances are that a medieval peasant would not believe in many gods, since Christianity, is monotheistic.

Without what I have learned in social studies, I wouldn't know how life was in a certain time in a certain culture. I would probably make a serious mistake, like saying that not all young men were required to serve in the Incan army, while in reality they were all required to serve. I might have Kublai Khan referring to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella's rule, when they hadn't even been born yet. What I have learned in social studies has helped me in my creative writing by giving me an understanding of a time period to help me grasp what a character's culture is like, to keep my characters accurate with their time period, and to make sure my characters act as one of their time period would do.