

LOCAL AND WORLD GEOGRAPHIC LITERACY: A CASE STUDY OF
CRAWFORD COUNTY, ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to investigate the local and world geography knowledge of Crawford County high school students. This study determines that local geography knowledge is lacking among these students and that it has a direct relationship with world geography knowledge. Certain student characteristics were also found to have an effect on geography knowledge. To verify this lack of local geography knowledge and its relationship with world geography knowledge, Pearson's r-correlation, t-ratio, and ANOVA statistical analyses were performed.

Local geography knowledge has never been fully studied using quantitative techniques and this study has helped to establish a baseline from which other studies can be compared or based upon. The results of this study identify weaknesses in high school students' geography knowledge. Possible solutions for these weaknesses are discussed, along with future local geography research possibilities.