

“I hear and I forget, I see and I remember. I do and I understand.” - Chinese Proverb

RAFT (Resource Area for Teaching), a non-profit organization was founded in 1994 in California, USA. RAFT's main focus is to inspire, engage and educate children through the power of hands-on teaching. As Mary Simon, RAFT Founder & Executive Director states, “If kids don't learn the way we teach, then we have to teach them the way they learn.”

Learning by doing. This simple yet powerful concept has been RAFT's objective since its inception. 'Hands-on' education translates abstract and complex subjects by incorporating activities that help children learn by doing. This ignites their interest, nurtures their natural curiosity, and also helps maintain a lifelong love of learning. (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iAvH3xMN9ik>)

RAFT's mission is to help educators transform a child's learning experience through 'hands-on' education to one that inspires the joy and discovery of learning. While 'hands-on' education is a proven best practice for engaging and motivating young learners, educators face many challenges in adopting this approach. They must envision and design creative projects that are aligned with instructional goals, spend valuable personal time in finding the materials needed to do these activities, and most often pay for this out of their own pocket.

RAFT, as the name - Resource Area for Teaching - signifies, has built a community for educators who believe in 'hands-on' teaching. We are doing this today with some 10,000 educators, who teach both inside and outside the classroom. **RAFT's products** (Activity Kits & Idea Sheets), **services** (professional development and mentoring) and **affordable teaching supplies** enrich and improve the education of over 825,000 young people each year. (<http://www.raft.net/educators-using-raft>)

To make 'hands-on' instruction affordable, RAFT underwrites its education activities through grant and donor support. To provide kits and materials at low cost, the organization has developed an innovative supply chain process that converts commonly found or discarded materials from the business community into 'hands-on' Activity Kits, all built with the help of thousands of volunteers.

Field tested with a high success rate in engaging students, and increasing retention and academic achievement, RAFT 'hands-on' Activity Kits are now available online at www.raft.net

One of the 330 Certified Bay Area Green Businesses, RAFT provides an abundance of inexpensive teaching materials while helping to preserve the environment. We are proud to receive many outstanding reviews on www.greatnonprofits.org.