

Key Findings: RAFT Student Impact Study



Independent Research Study Shows that RAFT Hands-on Learning Activities Engage Students and Improve Academic Performance

“Transforming the learning experience”

Key Finding: Student Engagement

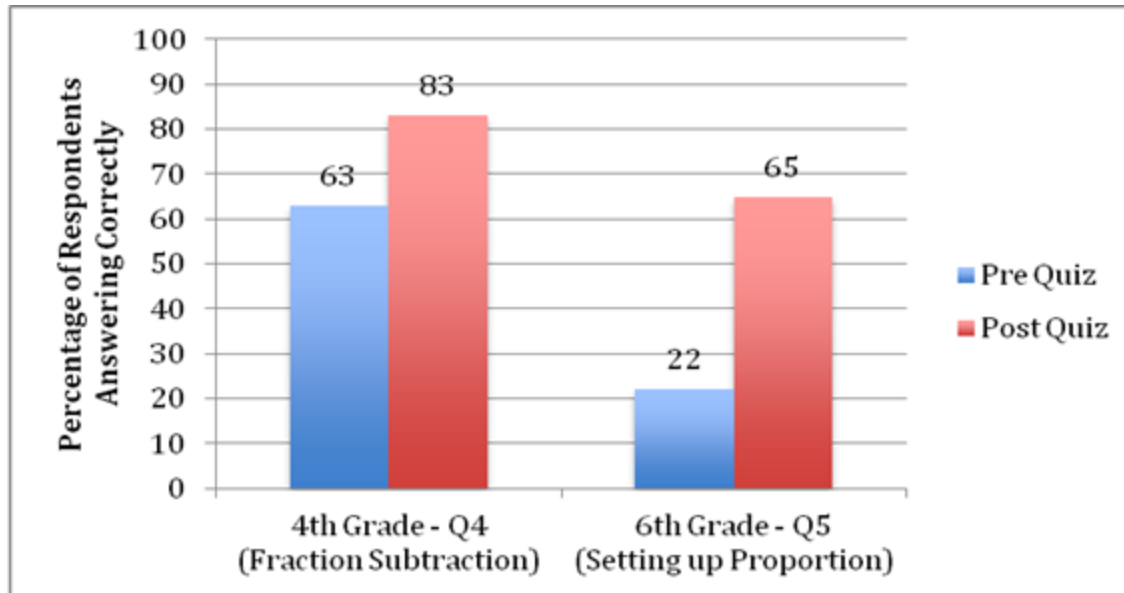
- Students overwhelmingly said that RAFT activities are “fun” and “interesting ways to learn and solve problems”
 - √ “Learning,” “I’m good at it” and “Finding answers” were also frequent answers
- Student involvement in the lessons:
 - √ *“I learned that learning isent (sic) all about sitting in a desk with a paper and a pencil.”*
 - √ *“That was fun and it taught me a lot.”*
 - √ *“I learned how to make a problem from things in real life and how to solve them.”*



Source: Rockman, RAFT Student Impact Study, 2011

Key Finding: Academic Achievement

- With RAFT activities, students significantly increased their ability to apply math concepts to solve “real world” word problems



√ *“I learned how all of the math we have been doing works.”*

√ *“I learned how to make a problem from things in real life and how to solve them.”*

Source: Rockman, RAFT Student Impact Study, 2011

Key Finding: 21st Century Skills

- Classroom observations as well as student comments revealed development of key 21st Century skills such as teamwork, collaboration and persistence
- In today's "Information Age," 21st Century skills are considered to be essential to success in life as well as school
- Student feedback:
 - ✓ *"I learned that if you work together you will achieve something."*
 - ✓ *"It's good to work with a team. It helps you get things done faster and you get to have fun."*
 - ✓ *"I learned a fun way to learn math that involves teamwork."*

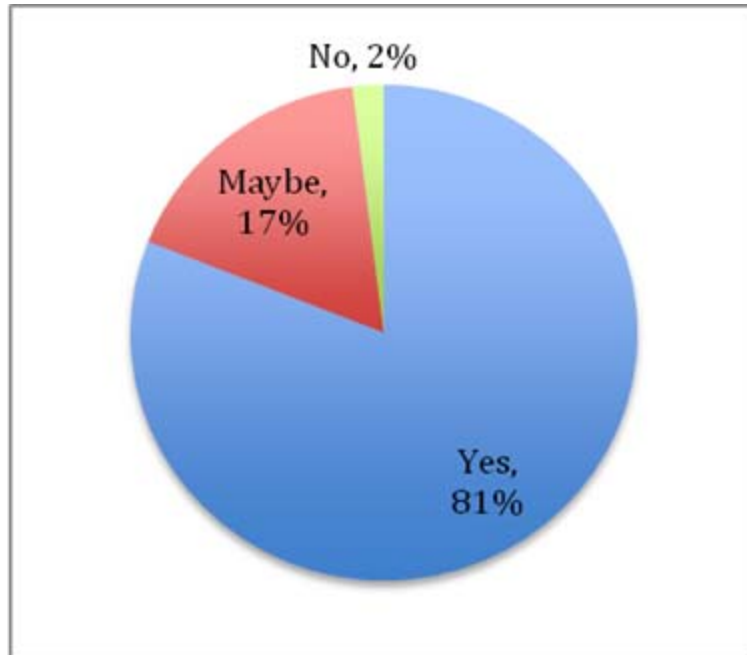


Source: Rockman, RAFT Student Impact Study, 2011

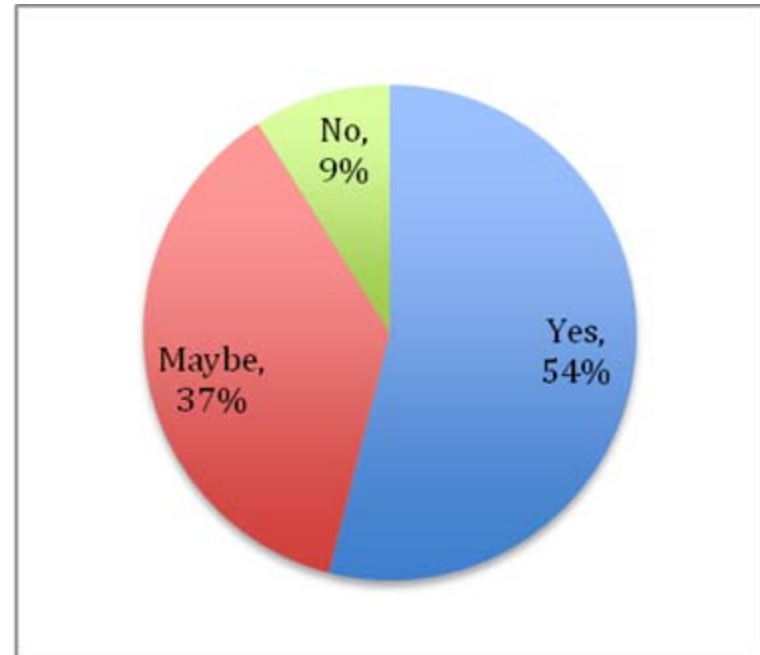
Key Finding: More RAFT Activities!

- The majority of students would like to have more RAFT activities integrated into their curriculum

4th Graders



6th Graders



Source: Rockman, RAFT Student Impact Study, 2011

About the Study

- Independent research study conducted by Rockman Et Al
- Involved 458 4th and 6th graders in Bay Area schools
 - √ Involved 23 classes taught by 17 different teachers, Spring 2011
 - √ Represented a broad cross-section of socioeconomic statuses, English language learners, as well as special needs students included in the classrooms
- Data collected in Spring, 2011



Rockman Research Methodology

- Quantitative measurements

- √ Pre-quiz followed by grade appropriate RAFT math activity
- √ The kits: “Salmon you can count on,” and “Frac Jack”
- √ Post-quiz 1 or 2 days after participating in the activity
- √ Used questions similar to those on standard achievement tests
- √ Activities used were representative of RAFT kits in general



- Rockman staff observers

- √ Qualitative observations included increased student engagement, teamwork and collaboration when using RAFT kits

Next Steps

- RAFT will incorporate the Rockman research protocol into ongoing program evaluation



- For more information, go to <http://www.raft.net>