



EdTechLens Efficacy Testing Results for Rainforest Journey

Efficacy Study Coordinator

A national third-party efficacy test for Rainforest Journey was conducted by [SEG Measurement](#), an independent educational research firm, from February to June, 2016.

Primary research question for this study

Do fourth- and fifth-grade students who use Rainforest Journey show greater gains in life science knowledge than comparable students who do not use Rainforest Journey?

Secondary research questions were also explored

— Do fourth- and fifth-grade students who use Rainforest Journey show greater engagement in life science instruction than comparable students who do not use Rainforest Journey?

— Do teachers perceive Rainforest Journey to be an effective resource for teaching life science?

— Does the Rainforest Journey curriculum help students and teachers meet goals or requirements for literacy?

Study design

A pre/post, treatment/control, quasi-experimental research design was used to obtain results. Pretest and posttest performance was compared between the groups while controlling for initial ability differences. Student life science skills were measured using a custom assessment. The assessment consisted of 25 multiple-choice items covering the life science Next Generation Science Standards.

Primary research question outcome

Students who used Rainforest Journey showed larger increases in science knowledge and skills than comparable students who did not use Rainforest Journey. Rainforest Journey users scored .15 standard deviations higher than non-users.

Secondary research questions outcomes

Effectiveness: Teachers rated the effectiveness of the various components in Rainforest Journey. 88% of the teachers said that the lessons, the heart of the program, were effective or very effective in increasing students' life science knowledge and skills.

100% of the teachers said that the quality of the written content as well as the media (videos, audio, photos, and illustrations) were also effective or very effective in increasing students' life science knowledge and skills.

Engagement: Teachers also rated student engagement. 88% said the lessons were effective or very effective in increasing engagement. 100% said that the interest level of the written content, the hands-on activities, and the media (videos, audio, photos, and illustrations) were also effective or very effective in increasing engagement.

Alignment: 87.5% of teachers agreed that alignment with the NGSS was strong.

Literacy Connections: 100% of the teachers agreed that the program was useful in filling Common Core requirements for reading informational text. The potential for Rainforest Journey to support literacy goals and standards was also confirmed by the fact that 100% of the teachers agreed that the quality and the interest level of the written content was engaging and effective in increasing life science skills and knowledge.

Summary

This study supports the effectiveness of Rainforest Journey in improving students' knowledge and skills and also maintaining or increasing engagement in the K-5 life science curriculum. SEG President, Scott Elliot, stated that, " In addition to the positive cognitive outcomes, we were pleased to see that both students and teachers indicated that Rainforest Journey helped to increase the students' interest in science as well as meet the important challenge of connecting subject-matter content with literacy. . . . These findings were especially commendable since the study was conducted on the first full-production release of the product."

For more information regarding Rainforest Journey and this efficacy study, please contact EdTechLens at 844-233-8324 or info@edtechlens.com.

