CRESST Games
What Teachers Say
Background

- Use of educational games for teaching and assessment is growing at a rapid rate.
- Research and practice indicate that students find games motivational and try harder.
- The next few slides are actual teacher quotes about CRESST computer games during a research study.
Struggling Students

• Students who do not necessarily perform high in class, shined while playing (the CRESST games).

• Low-level students understood concepts, finally!

• A few of my “weaker” math students (especially those who struggled with homework and tests) were very engaged and successful with the games.

• Some students who have a tough time focusing were very engaged. It was a nice surprise.
Motivation

• Students were HIGHLY motivated.
• I knew they would LOVE doing math in a game format. I saw lower (performing) kids working and not giving up.
• Some students who have a tough time focusing were very engaged. It was a nice surprise.
• They were really into them. They tutored each other and were constantly asking when they’d play next.
Learning...

- Having visuals of these operations in game form helped with concrete understanding.
- I heard a few “aha’s” from students as they realized how to accomplish and succeed at a (given) level.
- I was surprised at how they came up with ways to solve problems that were purely based on logic, not necessarily procedures I taught them.
- There were some students who I know didn’t understand the concept of equivalent fractions before using them in the games.
Specific Games

- The airplane game really helped provide visual understanding, conceptually how and why to solve for variables.
- Tlaloc’s Book (helped) students understand algorithms for multiplying and dividing fractions.
- Students liked AlgebROCK. It was good review for them as the concepts applied to most 6th grade math.
- With Wiki Jones and Save Patch, students said it was helpful to see how fractions looked and worked.
- Monster Line helped students visualize the steps and slow down.
More of What Teachers Say

- One student pretty much does nothing (in class) but when it came time to “game,” he brought his game!
- Repetition was valuable. Kids got to see success over and over again.
- Students were more confident and performed better than I expected.
- They enjoy math more and are willing to work on their white boards to attempt to solve problems. They challenge each other now.
For More Information

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