Evaluating the Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever Curriculum: Pre- and Post-Tests

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What are Pre-Post Tests?

• Tests given before and after a training
• Used to measure what people learn during a training session
• Can be given immediately after a lesson or later (e.g. 1 month, 3 months, 6 months)
• Uses the same test for both pre- and post-testing
Pre-Post Test Model

**Pre-Test**
- Shows knowledge before lesson

**Instruction**
- Lectures, exercises, assignments, activities

**Post-Test**
- Shows increase in knowledge after lesson (Post-test score minus pretest score)
Why do we need RMSF Curriculum Pre-Post Tests

- It is a new curriculum. We need to know if it is effective.
- To see if the students are learning the lessons.
- To see if learning level needs to be changed for different age groups.
- To see if some topics are not as clear as others.
- To improve the curriculum.
Advantages of Pre-Post Tests

• Useful to measure increase in knowledge from lessons

• Pre-tests can let you know what the basic level of knowledge is in that age group and the community which can help target public outreach

• Uses the same questions on each test so the achievement on important topics can be measured
Disadvantages of Pre-Post Tests

• If the pre-test scores are so low that they can only go up, so the lesson might appear much more effective than it would be with another group.

• If the pre-test scores are so high that little improvement will be possible in the post-test scores, so the lesson look less effective than it would be with another group.

• By using the same test for both the pre- and post-test, some students can absorb knowledge just from taking the test.
Pre-Post Test Tips

• Make sure the two tests have the same questions

• Make sure the test is at the right level for the age group

• Check that the test asks questions on the topics you care about the most

• Consider using the same test as your peers

• Try to make sure that the conditions under which the student takes the pre-post tests are as similar as possible

• Make sure you look at the scores later to find places where the lesson plan might need improvement
Example of Pre/Post Tests
Questions?