

# *Mrs. Carter's* BUTTERFLY GARDEN

STEVE RICH

  
**NSTA Kids**  
National Science Teachers Association

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STEVE RICH

  
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Arlington, Virginia

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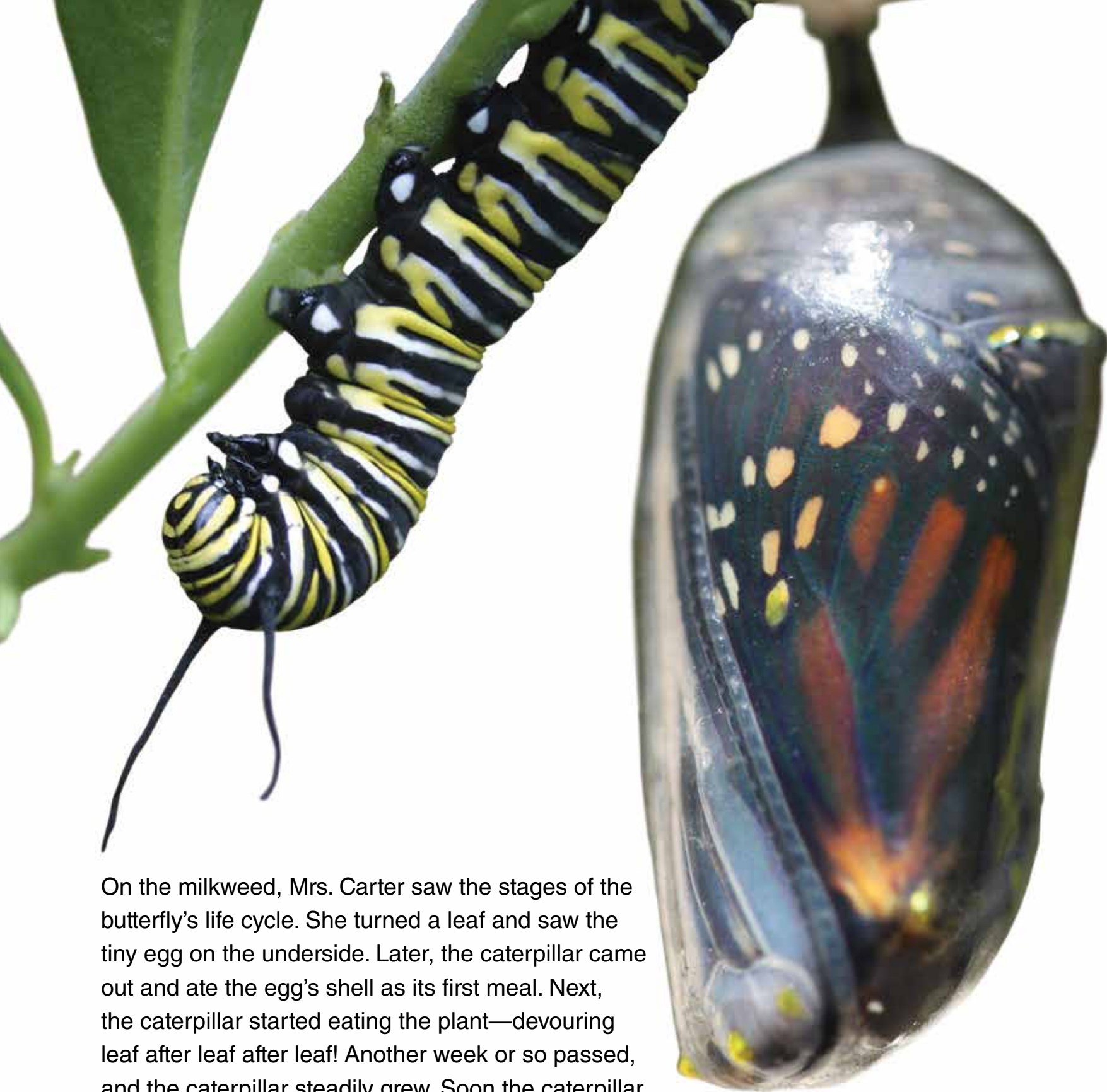
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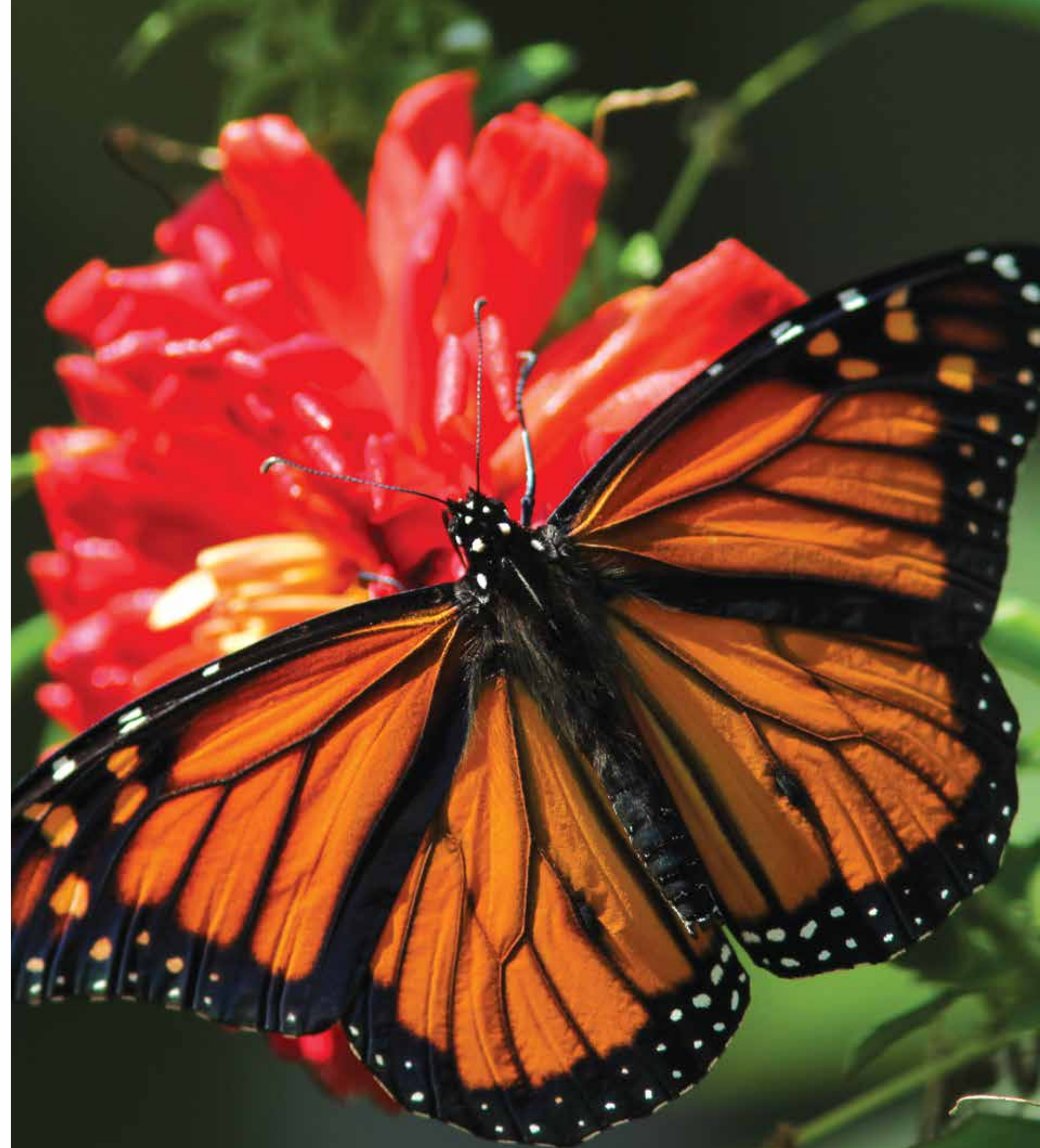
Dedicated with admiration  
to former First Lady  
Rosalynn Carter,  
for her commitment to making  
the world a better place for so many people  
and for so warmly and graciously welcoming butterflies and me  
to Plains, Georgia.

— Steve Rich





On the milkweed, Mrs. Carter saw the stages of the butterfly's life cycle. She turned a leaf and saw the tiny egg on the underside. Later, the caterpillar came out and ate the egg's shell as its first meal. Next, the caterpillar started eating the plant—devouring leaf after leaf after leaf! Another week or so passed, and the caterpillar steadily grew. Soon the caterpillar hung upside down and began to squirm out of its skin, becoming a chrysalis. The chrysalis was green and had some parts with a golden shine. After about two more weeks, the adult butterfly emerged.







Just as she had done all her life, Mrs. Carter wanted to share her work.

She wanted people to know about her garden when they came from all over to visit the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site in Plains.



So, she decided to have several gardens all along a special trail where visitors could see butterflies such as monarchs, swallowtails, skippers, Gulf fritillaries, and many other species. This would allow visitors to learn about how they can also plant gardens that provide habitats for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.





# *Mrs. Carter's* BUTTERFLY GARDEN

**Y**oung naturalists will gain both information and inspiration from this book about a very special butterfly garden. *Mrs. Carter's Butterfly Garden* is the story of how former First Lady Rosalynn Carter created a sunny spot in her yard to attract monarch butterflies and help prevent habitat loss. Author Steve Rich worked with Mrs. Carter to create a butterfly-friendly trail through her hometown of

Plains, Georgia. Children can learn from Mrs. Carter's example why it's good for people when butterflies have welcoming spaces to flutter by—and how they, as young butterfly enthusiasts, can create a butterfly garden on their own at home or school.

Published by NSTA Kids, *Mrs. Carter's Butterfly Garden* includes helpful resources for teachers and parents who want to introduce children to beautiful butterflies.



**Grades K–3**

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