

# my SCHOOLYARD GARDEN



STEVE RICH

  
**NSTA Kids**  
National Science Teachers Association

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DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF MY FATHER,  
*Rockell Rich, Jr.,*  
FOR MAKING OUR GARDEN AND EVERY OUTDOOR SPACE  
A PLACE FOR ME TO LEARN AND GROW.





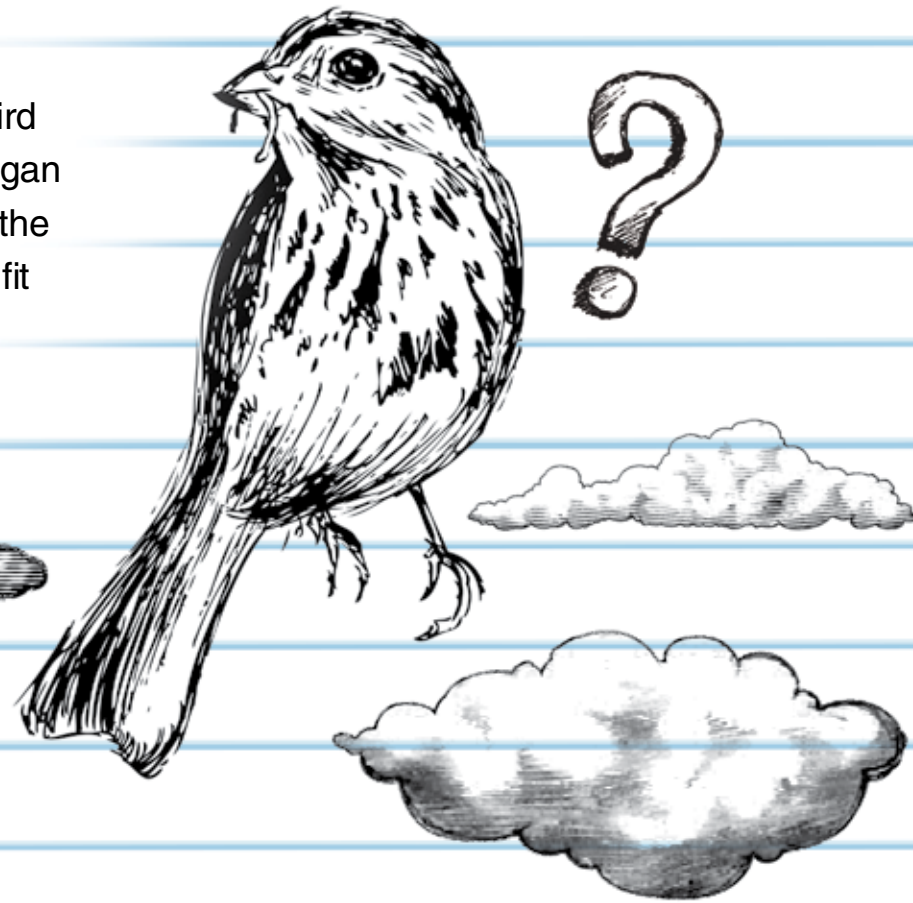


On benches nearby, we can sit quietly to write in our nature journals. We record our school yard observations of animals that visit the garden.

We also make sketches to go with what we write, like the one I made of a bird pulling a worm from the compost pile.



After drawing the bird with the worm, I began to think about how the two animals would fit into a food chain.



I sketched it out: The Sun gives light and warmth to plants, the worm eats leaves, and the bird eats the worm.

When I put all the school yard food chains together, I can make a food web.

So I added more plants and animals, such as a butterfly drinking nectar from the plant's flower and a spider that preys on the butterfly.





# My SCHOOL YARD GARDEN

Use this book to take students on a ramble through a school yard garden. The text and photos invite students to pause by the seeding bed, peek at the compost bin, and watch what's happening at the birdhouse and birdbath. Along the way, children will learn what insects, animals, and plants need to thrive—and how much fun it is to observe and record it all. *My School Yard Garden* is proof that you can learn a lot from a garden, no matter where it grows.

Published by NSTA Kids, *My School Yard Garden* includes helpful resources for teachers and parents who want to introduce children to the marvels right outside their classrooms. Author Steve Rich also wrote the NSTA Kids book *Mrs. Carter's Butterfly Garden* and the NSTA Press books *Outdoor Science* and *Bringing Outdoor Science In*.

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