

Blanca Huertas: butterfly expert

As a little girl growing (1) in Colombia, Blanca Huertas was fascinated by wildlife, and especially by butterflies. In those days you couldn't buy butterfly nets locally, so her father made (2) for her, using the end of a broom. He also bought her some books and took her to different places at the weekends so (3) she could see different species and learn about different types of habitats. It was at this time that she started her butterfly collection.

(4) she was sixteen, Blanca went to university to study biology. Her professor convinced her that the study of butterflies (5) become a career, not just a hobby. What's more, he encouraged Blanca to apply (6) a place on a field trip to the Cauca region of the Amazon, (7) was being organized by students from Oxford and Cambridge.

The two-month trip was an incredible experience. Blanca rediscovered a butterfly that hadn't (8) seen for thirty years and collected information about new species. (9) a result of the trip, the region was turned into a national park.