COMPARING TWO NONFICTION TEXTS

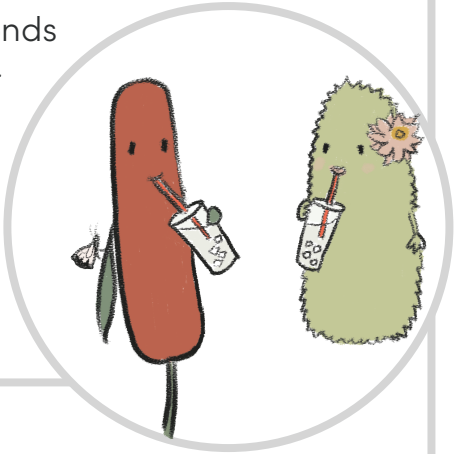
THE INFLUENCE OF WATER

Read the two nonfiction texts below. Use the information to complete the graphic organizer on page 2.

TEXT 1:

WATER'S INFLUENCE ON A CATTAIL

Have you ever noticed long thin plants growing out of a pond or wetlands that have long blades with brown, oval-shaped flowers? Even though the name might sound funny, these plants are called cattails. These plants are truly amazing because they thrive in areas that are extremely wet. Cattails grow and spread faster when the water conditions are just right, such as in shallow ponds or shallow areas of lakes. Don't be fooled! If there is a flood or if there is too much water, cattails will not grow heartily. Their roots will struggle to survive and the plants may even drown from the excess water.



TEXT 2:

WATER'S INFLUENCE ON A CACTUS

When you first look at a cactus that is thriving in the desert, with very little water, you may think that the plant doesn't need much water at all! This is partly true. Cacti have very special structures that allow them to retain water so that they are able to survive long periods without water. These plants are well equipped for the desert. A cactus does not need to be immersed in standing water for long periods of time. In fact, when a cactus gets too much water, it can strain the plant, causing the plant to swell. Over a period of time, this can cause the cactus to die.

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Use the information on page 1 to complete the graphic organizer below.

	DIFFERENCES: TEXT 1	SIMILARITIES	DIFFERENCES: TEXT 2
TOPIC: What topic is being explored in these two texts? How are the topics different?			
MAIN IDEA: What is the main idea or main focus of each of the texts?			
SUPPORTING DETAILS: List at least two details that the texts have in common. List at least two details that are different in the texts.			
WRITTEN RESPONSE: Think about the type of area in which you live. Which type of plant, if either, would survive best? Use details from the text to support your response.	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____		