A Tale of Two Gardens

Janice’s Garden

Janice had a flock of chickens that she kept for eggs. Every morning she would let the chickens out of their coop to walk around the vegetable garden and eat insects. The chickens were very helpful. They ate the potato beetles off of the potato and eggplant plants, and they ate the fat green worms off of the broccoli. Every once in a while when the chickens were out during the day, a hawk would fly overhead, and Janice noticed that whenever that happened, the chickens always ran for cover. This gave Janice an idea. She would plant things in her garden that would shelter the chickens while they were working! Janice planted sunflowers and corn around her garden, and both grew up straight and tall. When the sunflowers and corn were about a foot high, Janice planted beans and cucumbers at their feet. All four varieties of plants continued to grow together. The beans and cucumbers wound their way up and around the sunflower stalks and the corn stalks. Now when the chickens walked through the garden pecking at bugs, the sunflowers and the corn provided camouflage for the chickens so the hawks could not see them from the air.

Katie’s Garden

Katie had always wanted a garden. When her parents bought their first house, Katie couldn’t wait to plant. She and her mother dug up a four foot by eight foot rectangle in the back yard. They planted tomatoes, carrots, radishes, cucumbers, spring onions, arugula and mixed lettuces. Katie called it her salad garden. Her mother told her that she should encourage “good” insects to come to the garden to help pollinate her tomatoes, so Katie also planted marigolds and calendulas. They added a lovely splash of color to the garden. Katie checked the garden every day and kept the weeds pulled. Before she knew it, it was time to harvest! She made her family a salad to go with dinner that night and they all agreed it was the best salad they had ever had!
Questions

1. Why does Janice grow her garden?

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2. Why does Katie grow her garden?

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3. Fill out the diagram below to compare and contrast Janice and Katie’s gardens.

What is growing in Janice’s garden?

What is growing in both gardens?

What is growing in Katie’s garden?