



吉野家（農家）

You :

This is a Japanese farmhouse. Look at the roof...it is made of thatch.

Friend :

Oh, it's a thatched roof! When was it built?

You :

It was built in the late Edo Period.

Friend :

What is that? The one with ashes.

You :

It is an *irori*. *Irori* was used for heating. Well, for cooking, too.

Friend :

So, it's something like a fireplace?

Friend :

Are these panels in lattice patterns doors?

You :

They are *shōji*. They are doors as you said, and they are also made to take in natural light.

Friend :

I see...what are they made of, by the way?

You :

They are made of wood and paper.



Words to Know 

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| thatch          | (屋根の) ふきわら |
| late Edo Period | 江戸時代後期     |
| ashes           | 灰 [はい]     |
| fireplace       | 暖炉         |
| lattice         | 格子         |
| pattern         | 模様、型       |
| take in ~       | ~を採り入れる    |
| natural light   | 自然光        |

Quiz

If you have entered old Japanese houses, you may have had chances to see *shōji*. Here is a question. How do you open *shōji* if they are closed?

Answer: By sliding

