

Let's learn about the old house of Yamato

Former Ogawa Residence

Built : Mid-Edo Period

Former Location : Kamiwada, Yamato City
(Kuden Settlement)

The oldest house of Yamato City
in existence



Question 1

What is the roof made of?



Question 2

What are the walls made from?

Question 3

How was the earth floored
area in the house used for?



Question 4

What was this place for?



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Answers

Question 1

What is the roof made of?

The roof is made of Japanese silver grass canes.

The canes used for roofs are called “Kaya”, and these thatching made of canes are called “Kayabuki Yane”.

Looking at the ceiling of the former Ogawa residence, you can see how the roof is built.



Roof seen from inside of the former Ogawa residence

Question 2

What are the walls made from?

The walls are made from soil and clay. These walls are called “Tsuchi Kabe”.

It uses clay mixed with hey which is pasted on to a bamboo reinforcement and another layer of different clay is pasted for protection from rain and water.

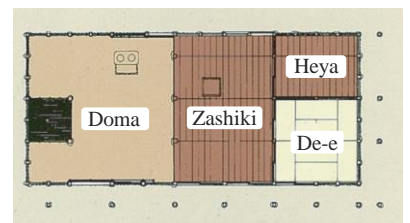


Construction of “Tsuchikabe”

Question 3

How was the earth floored area in the house used for?

This area is called a “Doma” and used as a work area to continue working during the rain and was not able to go work in the fields. That is why the floor is not covered, so it does not need to be cleaned. Also, as there is a “Kamado” (a hearth), it was used as a cooking space.



Room layout of former Ogawa residence

Question 4

What was this place for?

This wide wooden area with a irori fireplace (open hearth) is called a “Zashiki”. Meals were held with the whole family gathering and seated around the irori. The seats were fixed, and the family head, wife and guests seats were kept. The family head and wife slept in “Heya”, where as the rest of the family slept at “Zashiki”.