

READ THE PASSAGE Think about what you want to know about living in Japan.**Fumi's House**

Kara likes getting e-mail from Fumi. Kara is a third-grader in Arizona, and Fumi is in third grade in Japan. They are e-pals who send e-mails every week. Fumi sent Kara photos and descriptions of her home.

The first room in Fumi's house is a small entryway. People who enter the home remove their shoes. They put on different shoes with soft soles. That seemed odd to Kara. She wears her street shoes in the house.

Kara likes the photo of Fumi and her family eating. They gather around a table, just like Kara and her family. Kara's family sits on chairs, but Fumi's family sits on cushions on a straw mat on the floor. The table is low to the ground. What seems to be a wall behind Fumi's family is actually a door without knobs. Fumi explained that the door slides open. It is made from strong paper glued to thin strips of wood. "I could never play ball in that house!" thought Kara.

STRATEGY PRACTICE Write a question you have about the passage.**SKILL PRACTICE** Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- Why did the author write the passage?
 Ⓐ to explain how to have an e-pal
 Ⓑ to tell the history of e-mail
 Ⓒ to compare homes in Japan and in the United States
 Ⓓ to show that homes in Arizona are better than homes in Japan
- What is the same about Fumi's and Kara's homes?
 Ⓐ Families sit around a table to eat.
 Ⓑ People wear soft-soled shoes inside.
 Ⓒ The floors are covered with straw mats.
 Ⓓ They are in the same country.
- How is Fumi different from Kara?
 Ⓐ Fumi lives in the United States.
 Ⓑ Fumi's family sits on the floor to eat.
 Ⓒ Fumi's family eats around a table.
 Ⓓ Fumi is in the third grade.
- Kara and Fumi both _____.
 Ⓐ take their shoes off when they get home
 Ⓑ live in houses with doors made from paper
 Ⓒ learn about a new place from their e-pal
 Ⓓ sit on chairs during dinner