Japanese Home

This home was a present to us. It was made in Kyoto, Japan, and sent to Boston. People in the city of Kyoto, our Sister City in Japan, wanted people here to have a place to learn about Japan. We have the main room of a real Japanese home. We don't have a Japanese kitchen or a bathroom, but we have a lovely garden. The people who work at the Children's Museum have learned some things which Japanese families enjoy. They've learned about Japanese food and clothing, holidays and games, arts and crafts. You can try them too. It's easy to pretend you have taken a trip to Japan when you visit the Japanese Home Exhibit. Or if you've been to Japan you can tell us what it's like.
This is the garden of our Japanese home! But isn't it silly to put a garden in the basement? Well, you sort of have to pretend it's not in the basement...

This is awful! Our garden still looks like a basement! What can we do about it?

I've got it! We can build a fence just like one I saw in Kyoto, Japan. The fence will cover up the basement wall!

The fence was made of bamboo and reeds all tied with black string...

Where can we get reeds? Who can build a fence like that?

That day, driving home from work...

Reeds!

Hex, I know of a thatcher at Plimoth Plantation...

Is this Peter Slevin? I understand you make thatch roofs...

Do you know about making reed fences, too? You do?

Oh, just Irish fences...

Well, what's an Irish fence like?

Wow, that's almost just like a Japanese fence!

Will you make our fence? You will?!

We'll start cutting reeds right away!
NOW WE HAVE ENOUGH!

OOF! DO YOU THINK WE HAVE ENOUGH YET?

TWO WEEKS LATER...

THIS BIG NEEDLE IS USED TO THREAD THE STRING THROUGH THE REEDS. THIS BARE IS USED TO COMB THE REEDS-SMOOTH AND STRAIGHT.

I'VE BEEN THATCHING AND FENCING MY WHOLE LIFE. I LEARNED IT FROM MY FATHER IN IRELAND. IRISH REED FENCES ARE A LOT LIKE THIS ONE, BUT DON'T USE BAMBOO OR THIS FANCY KNOT.

GOTTA MOVE THIS BIG ROCK TO GET THE FENCE IN! WOAH, IT'S HEAVY! OOF!

NOW WE JUST TRIM OFF THE TOPS, AND WE'RE ALL FINISHED...

OOH! AHH!

WELL, BACK TO PLIMOTH PLANTATION. I HOPE I CAN REMEMBER MY OLD WAYS OF MAKING FENCES!

THIS IS THE GARDEN OF OUR JAPANESE HOME!