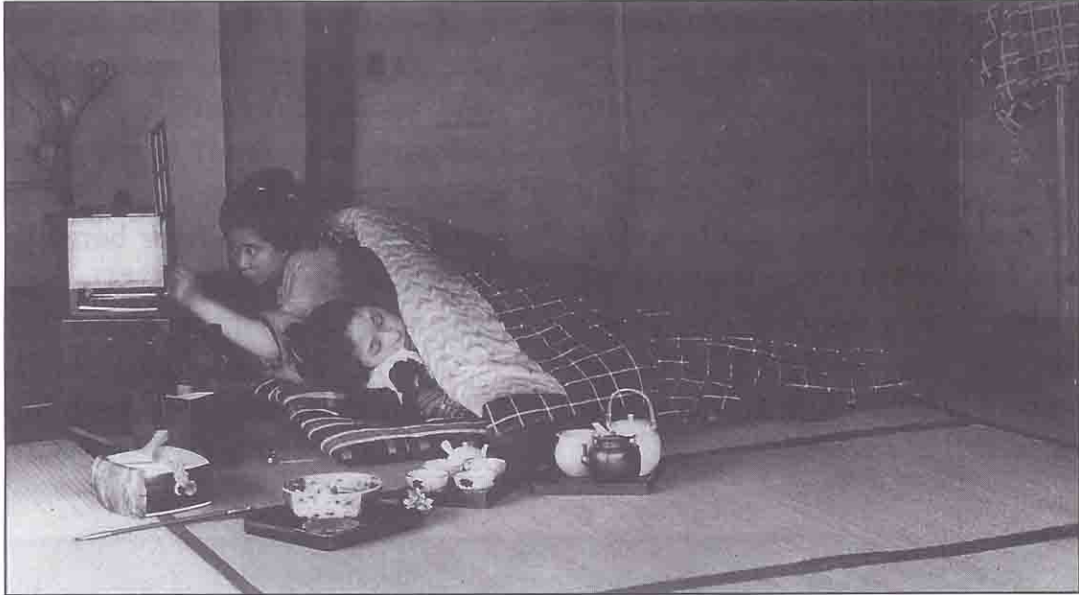


Lesson 26

194 Unit 3, Chapter 6 Japan, Land of the Rising Sun



Traditional Japanese beds are foam pads placed on the floor. They are easily put away for the day so that the room can be used for other activities.

The coals help keep our feet warm while we are eating.”

“Is that the only heat you use?” Karen asked.

“No, sometimes we use a **hibachi**, a small charcoal burner that we can move to any room in the house. And during the coldest months, we also use a gas heater. We don’t have a furnace to heat the whole house.”

The families thanked God for the meal. Then Kiku’s mother placed a tray with small bowls of food in front of Karen. Karen was glad she had practiced eating with chopsticks at home. She held

a bowl of rice in her left hand and began to eat.

“The rice and vegetables are delicious,” Karen said. “But what is this?” she asked, pointing to a small bowl on her tray.

Aunt Haruko answered, “That is **miso soup**. It is made of soybean paste with vegetables and seaweed.”

Mother laughed to see Karen’s startled look. “Taste it,” she urged. “It’s good.”

Karen observed the tidy room as she and Kiku sat sipping green tea from cups without handles. “They don’t have many things in