Winter worksheet

1. Match the wintery words with their definitions or facts.

- **Winter**: Shakespeare, Byron, and Dickens are all featured in quotations of this word. First recorded usage in 1611, with a later quotation from National Geographic Magazine. This word can also mean 'an absurd or confused situation; a mess'. In this sense, it was first recorded in 1941.

- **Scarf**: One definition: 'A time or state of old age, decay, affliction, hostility, emotional coldness, etc.'

- **Pantomime**: A less familiar sense of this word is 'a scroll or plate bearing an inscription.'

- **Fireplace**: A definition: 'A time or state of old age, decay, affliction, hostility, emotional coldness, etc.'

- **Holiday**: A definition: 'A time or state of old age, decay, affliction, hostility, emotional coldness, etc.'

2. Identify the senses of the following words which are most familiar to you. When were they first used in that sense?

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<th>Winter</th>
<th>Scarf</th>
<th>Pantomime</th>
<th>Fireplace</th>
<th>Holiday</th>
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3. If you have time, try to answer the following questions:

- **a** Where do reindeer occur in herds?

- **b** When was the word ‘hot chocolate’ first recorded?

- **c** According to the OED quotations, which liquids can be ‘mulled’?

- **d** Order these words, according to their first recorded usages from earliest to latest: sledge, ear muff, fireplace, blizzard (of snow), freeze, & snowflake.

- **e** Why do you think we often shape gingerbread into the shape of ‘men’, therefore referring to them as gingerbread men?
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ANSWERS

1. Winter  A state of old age, decay, etc. You can find this at sense 1d of ‘winter’
   www.oed.com/view/Entry/229394

   Fireplace  First recorded usage in 1611, with a later quotation from National Geographic
   Magazine. You can find this at fireplace, n. from the full entry page for ‘fireplace’
   www.oed.com/view/Entry/70555

   Holiday  Shakespeare, Byron, and Dickens are all authors featured in the quotations for
   holiday, noun.
   www.oed.com/view/Entry/87719
   You can use the ‘advanced search’ to look for anyone you think might be cited in the OED

   Scarf  A scroll or plate bearing an inscription. You can find this at sense 6 of scarf, noun 1 of
   ‘scarf’ by scrolling through the senses of ‘scarf’ after the quick search for the word
   www.oed.com/view/Entry/172033

   Pantomime  1941 citation from Penguin New Writing ‘It’s a proper pantomime. The old
   Tabbies’ll have to mind their dignities if they steps out to-day’. Under 3.b. definition of
   ‘pantomime’ through quick search
   www.oed.com/view/Entry/137038v

2. Winter
   OE, or Old English
   1823

   Scarf
   1734

   Pantomime
   1611

   Fireplace
   1400

   Holiday
   1400

3. a. “A widespread northern deer, both sexes of which have large branching antlers, occurring
   in herds in the tundra and taiga of subarctic Eurasia and North America” via quick search
   function
   www.oed.com/view/Entry/161586

   b. 1789, defined as a ‘drink made by mixing chocolate or cocoa with hot water or milk’.
   Listed as a sub-entry under ‘hot’
   www.oed.com/view/Entry/88782

   c. Water, vinegar, ale, wine, cider and claret. Taken from quotations.
   www.oed.com/view/Entry/123471

   d. Freeze (971), sledge (1617), snowflake (1734), earmuffs (1859), blizzard (1859).
   All answers taken from the first citation for each word within their entries via quick search.
   This may change during the revision of entries. For more information about the revision
   process, see https://public.oed.com/history/rewriting-the-oed

   e. One theory is that Queen Elizabeth I gifted important visitors with gingerbread
   impressions of themselves, which were then gilded with gold leaf. Taken from Oxford
   Dictionaries blog post https://blog.oxforddictionaries.com/2012/12/17/christmas-cookies