

Name

Winter worksheet

1 Match the wintry words with their definitions or facts.

Winter

Scarf

Pantomime

Fireplace

Holiday

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.

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

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

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

Winter

Scarf

Pantomime

Fireplace

Holiday

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?

.....

Winter worksheet

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	Scarf	Pantomime	Fireplace	Holiday
	OE, or Old English	1823	1734	1611	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>