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**Grade level:** 4

**Primary Source Citation:** *Colonel Christopher Gist's journal of a tour through Ohio and Kentucky in 1751*, excerpts from February 17, March 3, and March 18, Social Studies, Ohio Studies (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2006) 48-49.

Entire journal is available through Kentuckiana Digital Library at <http://kdl.kyvl.org/cgi/t/text/pageviewer-idx?c=kyetexts;cc=kyetexts;rgn=full%20text;idno=b92-46-26947783;didno=b92-46-26947783;view=pdf;seq=128>.

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the text while answering the questions below in order. The questions are designed to guide students into a deeper analysis of the source and sharpen associated cognitive skills.

### **Level I: Description**

1. What kind of writing is this?
2. Who is the author?
3. Who is the audience?

### **Level II: Interpretation**

1. Why do you think Christopher Gist's journal is important to Ohio's history?
2. Why do you think it was significant for Gist to mention that, "the Indians frequently pass thro[ugh] safely in their canoes"?
3. It gives the months and the days on which the entries were written, but what year do you think it was?

### **Level III: Analysis**

1. If someone came to your community for the first time, what would he or she record in a journal?
2. Write a journal entry in which you describe the people and land in your community.
3. What other references or materials could have been used for the same purpose Christopher Gist's journal was used for?

*Sunday [February] 17.*

*We entered the [Miami Indian] Town with the English Colours before us, and were kindly received by their King, who invited Us into His own House, & set our Colours upon the Top of it . . .*

*Sunday [March] 3.*

*This Morning we parted . . . I left the Path and went to the South Westward down the little Miamée River or Creek, where I had fine traveling thro[ugh] rich Land and beautiful Meadows, in which I could sometimes see forty or fifty Buffaloes feeding at once. . . .*

*I traveled this day about 30 M[iles].*

*Monday [March] 18.*

*The Falls of the Ohio . . . are not very steep, on the S[outh] E[ast] side . . . the Indians frequently pass thro[ugh] safely in their canoes . . . The Water below the Falls they say is about six Fathoms deep, and the River continues without any obstructions till it empties itself into the Mississippi which is reckoned at about 400 M[iles]. . .*

*[W]e saw a fine level Country S[outh] W[est] as far as Our Eyes could behold and it was a very clear day; we went down thro[ugh] the mountain and set out S[outh] 20 W[est] about 5 M[iles] thro rich level Land covered with small Walnut Sugar Trees . . .*

