

## Balance of Power

Ohio's government is separated into three independent branches. Each branch has the ability to limit the power of the other two. Elementary students will have a chance to "balance" the government with the interactive *Balance of Power* exhibit.

### PRE-TOUR ACTIVITIES:

This activity is for elementary students.

- Review the three branches of government and their functions at the local, state, and federal levels.
- Give examples of positions of work in each branch.
- Discuss how individuals come to hold positions in each branch, whether by election, appointment, or some other manner.
- Give examples of how one branch of government keeps another in check, such as the courts' authority to rule laws unconstitutional.

### POST-TOUR ACTIVITIES

- Compare our system of government with others around the world.



## Dispute Resolution

Popular television programs portray courts as hostile places focused on punishment, when in reality peaceful resolution of conflict is the ultimate goal of the judiciary. Oftentimes, this occurs through methods other than a jury trial. Mediation, a form of dispute resolution, is presented in the education center in a fictional scenario involving child custody.

### PRE-TOUR ACTIVITIES:

- Discuss the importance of using the court system and the rule of law for resolving conflicts.
- Ask your students to recall a conflict they have had with a peer or sibling and how it was resolved. Did anyone else help resolve the problem? What did they like or dislike about how the problem was handled?