

## **Checks and Balances Activity**

### **Instructional time:**

One 50 minute class period

### **Standards, Benchmarks and Indicators:**

- Fairfax County Program of Studies (POS) connection:

The student will demonstrate knowledge of how public policy is made at the local, state, and national levels of government by

- b) describing the roles and powers of the executive branch.

### **8.2.1 Students will be able to identify and explain the purpose, organization, and powers of government in the United States.**

Students reach this benchmark when they are able to:

- b) *Explain how and why power is separated and shared in the United States at each level of government including the operation of checks and balances. (CE 6b,c; 7a, b; 8b)*

- Virginia SOL connection:

Standard CE.6c -- The student will demonstrate knowledge of the American constitutional government by C) explaining the principle of separation of powers and the operation of checks and balances.

### **Essential Learning:**

Students will be able to identify which check and balance a particular branch is using to prevent another branch from abusing its power.

### **Assessment:**

Teacher will informally assess the students by reviewing their answers to the worksheets.