

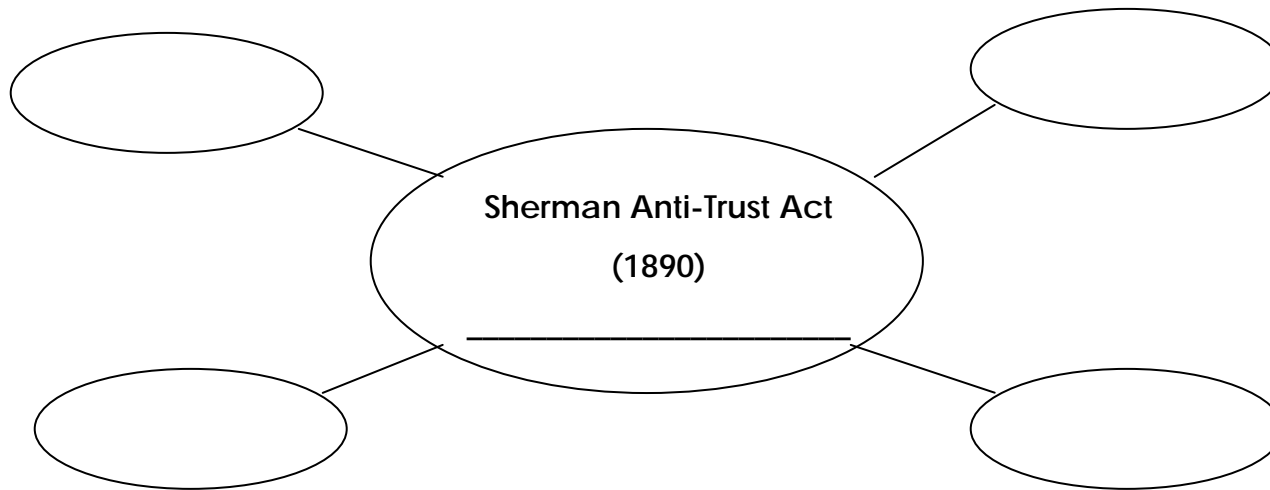


The United States Government Regulatory Functions in a Mixed Economic System

The United States government has a very limited role in the private sector, which is what makes us a mixed economy. For the most part, companies function with little interference from the government. Historically, the goal of our government has been to encourage fair competition in the market place. Towards that end, the government has participated in regulating the economy in two ways.

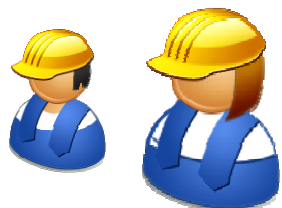


Anti-Trust Acts

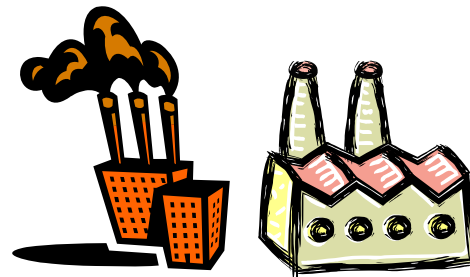


Regulatory Agencies

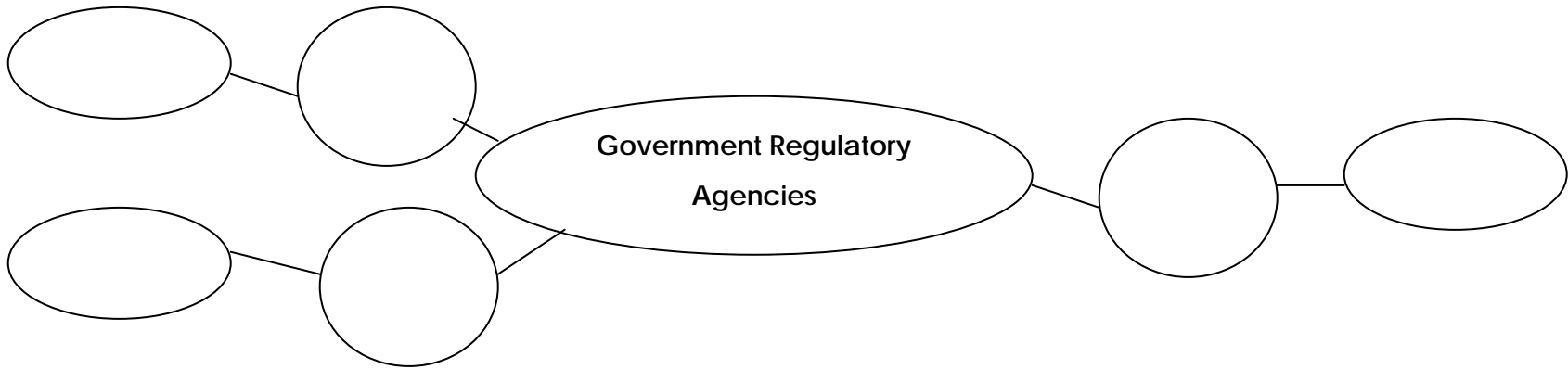
The United States government creates laws that require businesses to treat their workers and the environment fairly. All businesses in the United States must follow these laws or risk being heavily fined or shut down by the government.



Labor

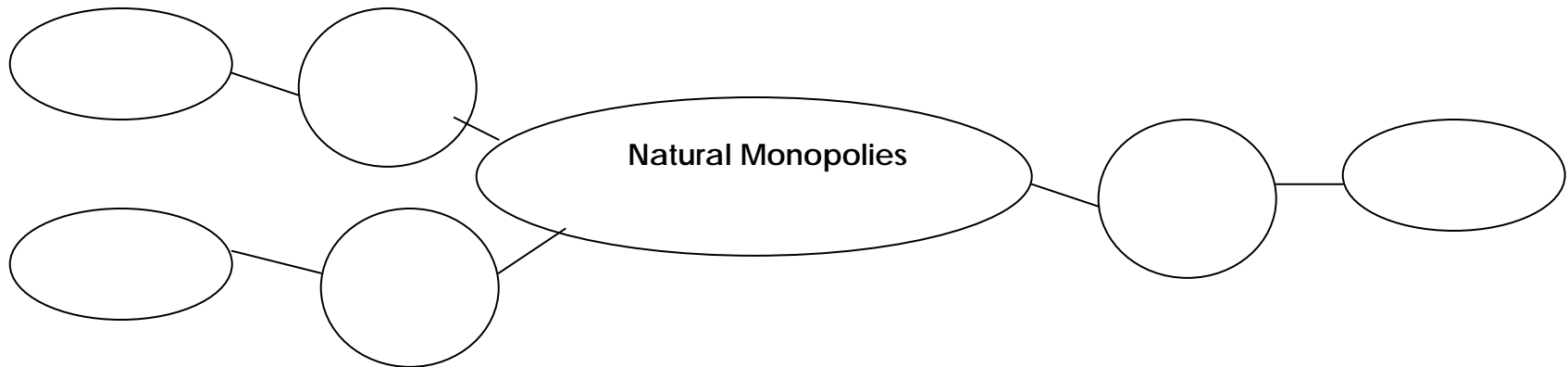


Environment



Natural Monopolies

The government regulates *Natural Monopolies*, a market situation in which the costs of production are minimized by having a single firm produce the product. In exchange for having the market all to itself, it agrees to be regulated by the government.



Explain in your own words how government regulations ensure fair competition in a mixed economy.