

Short Term Climate Fluctuations for Our Short-Term Memories

The Earth's climate has been in a constant state of change since the Earth was formed 4.5 billion years ago. While media and political attention has been focused on possible effects of anthropogenic climate change, there are numerous short, middle and long term natural climate cycles. Since humans observe a very limited time frame due to our relatively short life-spans, we are most likely to notice the short-term climate fluctuations over the course of our lives. Cyclical changes in ocean temperature, solar activity and unpredictable volcanic eruptions can cause noticeable and sometime dramatic changes to our climate. The ocean cycles and solar activity have only recently received increased scientific scrutiny and are still not fully understood. Whether acting alone or in tandem with each other, these natural fluctuations add some uncertainty to the future of our climate.

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