Fact 5: Climate change can be natural, but what’s happening now can’t be explained by natural forces

- Among the natural causes of climate change:
  - Changes in solar intensity
  - Continental drift, which changes ocean circulation patterns source: Utah Geological Survey
  - Changes in the Earth’s tilt, which alter the amount of sunlight reaching the Earth source: EPA
  - The absorption of CO$_2$ into the Earth’s crust and the eventual release of the CO$_2$ through volcanic eruptions source: NCA
  - Natural large scale oscillations that drive weather patterns, such as El Niño, La Niña, and other cycles, on timescales ranging from monthly to multi-decadal source: NCA

- Among the human causes of climate change: source: EPA
  - The release of CO$_2$ from burning fossil fuels
  - The release of methane and nitrogen oxides from agriculture
  - The release of methane from the production of natural gas source: EPA
  - Deforestation, which cuts down on how much CO$_2$ nature sucks out of the atmosphere

For additional information from Climate Central contact us at weathercasters@climatecentral.org
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