

Weather and Climate

Do you know the difference between weather and climate?

Weather is the day-to-day conditions at a particular place. It is the short-term changes in temperature, clouds, precipitation, humidity and wind in a specific area. Weather can vary greatly from one day to the next, or even within the same day.

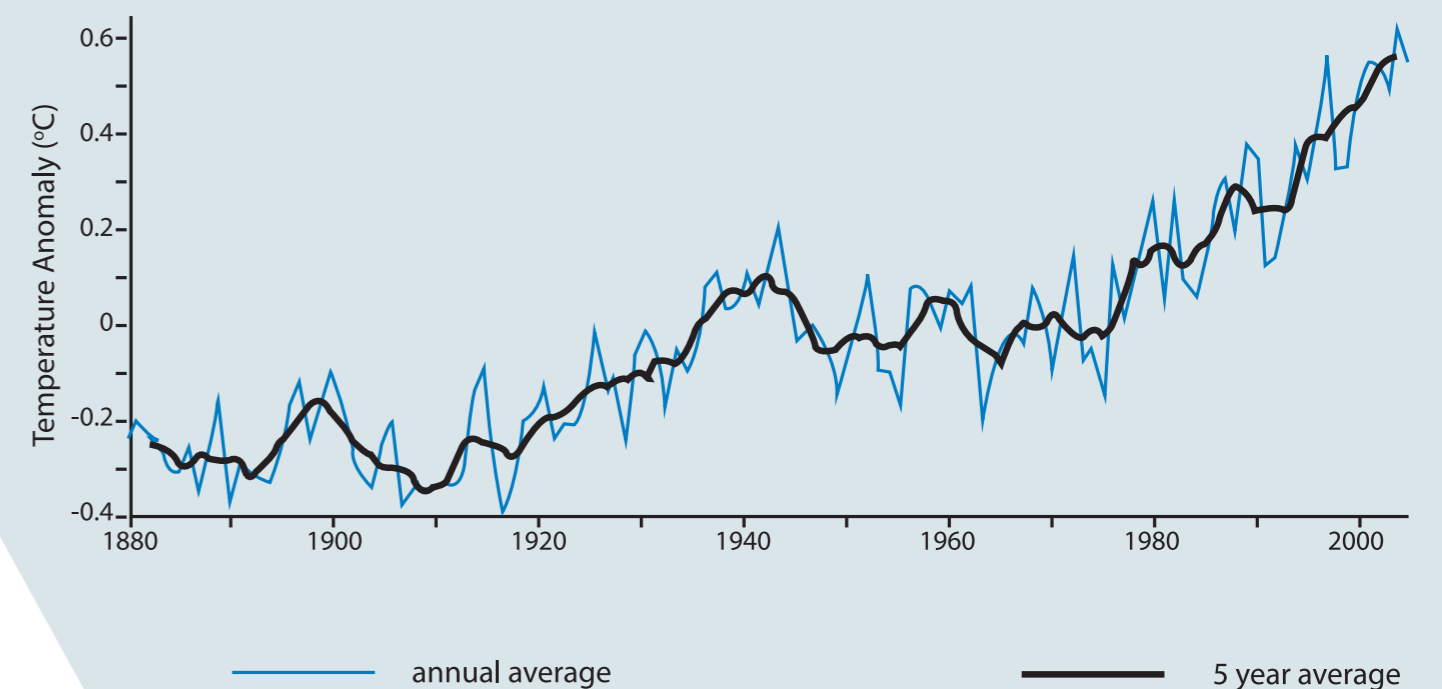


Climate is the weather averaged over many years in a specific area. Climate takes tens, hundreds and thousands of years to change.



Is Earth's Climate changing?

Earth's climate is always changing. In the past, Earth's climate has gone through warmer and cooler periods, each lasting thousands of years. However since 1880 observations show that average global temperature has increased by about 0.8 °C. Small changes in Earth's average temperature can lead to big impacts.



Source: NASA

What is causing Earth's Climate to change?

- **Natural causes:** these include changes in Earth's orbit and in the amount of energy coming from the Sun. Ocean changes and volcanic eruptions are also natural causes of climate change.
- **Human activities:** burning of fossil fuels, oil and gas.



What is the difference between 'Climate change' and 'Global warming'?

Global warming refers to the long-term increase in Earth's average temperature.

Climate change refers to any long term change (30 years or more) in Earth's climate or in the climate of a region. These include warming, cooling and changes such as rainfall and flowering patterns.

