

Causes of Climate Change

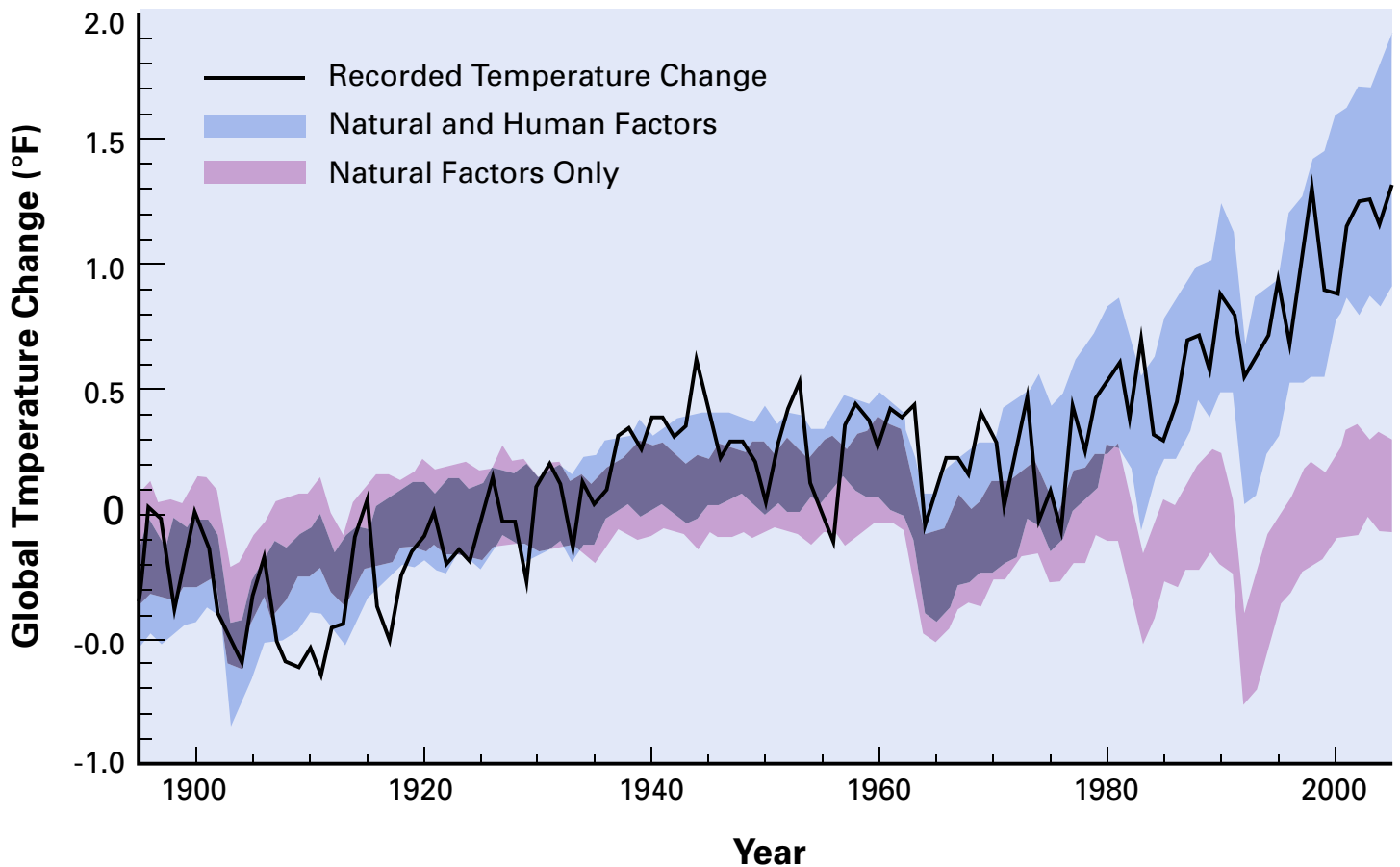
Earth's climate is a very complex system that is affected by many factors, including Earth's movement and orbit, solar energy, and volcanic eruptions. The following graph shows changes in global temperature since 1900 (the black line).

Color bands are used to denote temperature changes due to natural factors alone (light purple), natural and human factors (blue), and areas of overlap (dark purple).

Look at the graph and consider the questions below. Record responses in a science notebook or lab journal.

- What questions do you have about this graph?
- What conclusions could you draw from this graph?

Separating Human and Natural Influences on Climate



Source: U.S. EPA. <http://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/images/science/models-observed-human-natural.png>