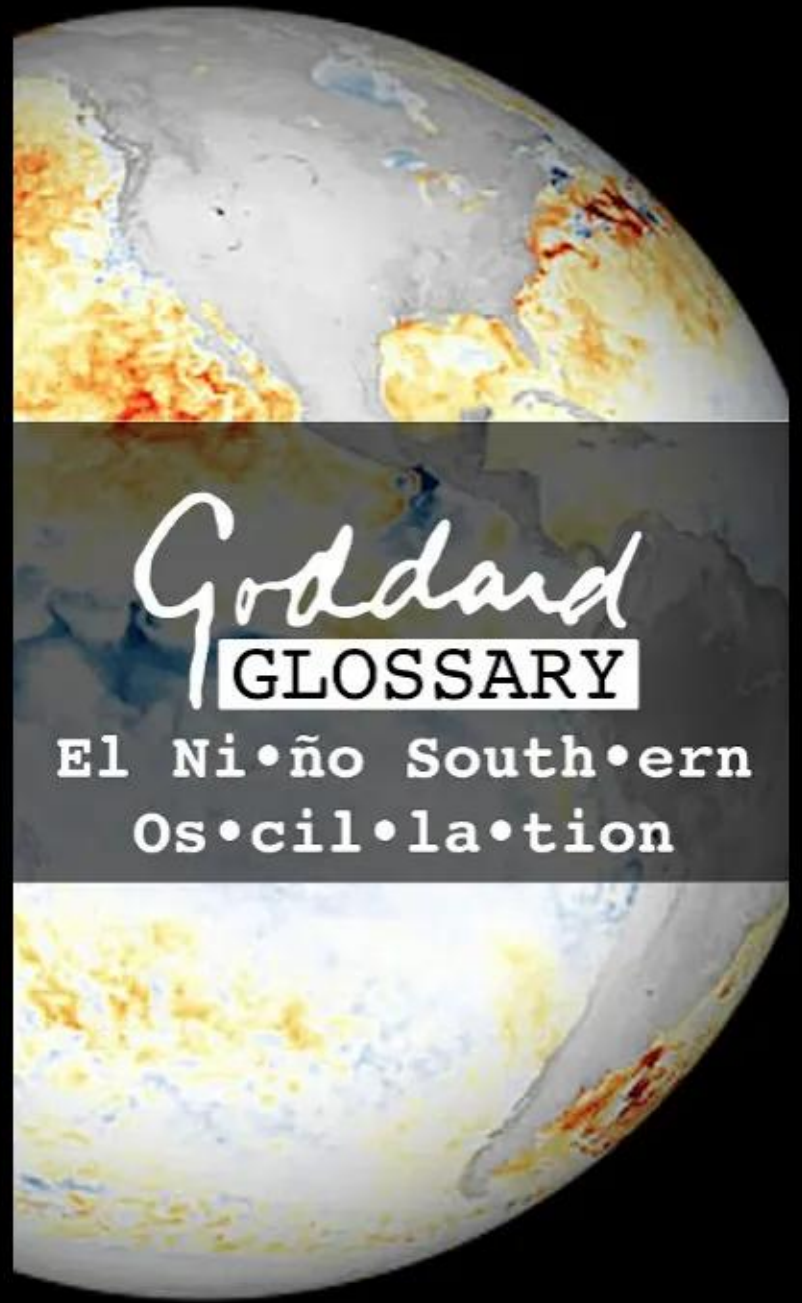
Goddard
GLOSSARY
El Ni•ño South•ern
Os•cil•la•tion

1
00:00:00,166 --> 00:00:01,566
El Niño Southern Oscillation.

2
00:00:01,566 --> 00:00:02,633
Or ENSO.

3
00:00:02,633 --> 00:00:05,600
ENSO is a pattern of trade winds
and ocean temperatures

4
00:00:05,600 --> 00:00:08,333
in the eastern tropical Pacific
that impacts global climate.

5
00:00:08,733 --> 00:00:09,966
It has three phases:

6
00:00:09,966 --> 00:00:13,500
El Niño, La Niña and neutral, shifting
between them every few years.

7
00:00:13,800 --> 00:00:15,100
Weaker trade winds during El Niño

8
00:00:15,100 --> 00:00:17,833
allow warm water to pile up
in the eastern tropical Pacific.

9
00:00:18,133 --> 00:00:19,633
This warming ocean temperature tends

10
00:00:19,633 --> 00:00:23,233
to drive warmer temperatures globally
and wetter conditions in the southern U.S.

11
00:00:23,433 --> 00:00:25,033
La Niña acts like El Niño’s reverse.

12

00:00:25,033 --> 00:00:27,800
Stronger trade winds
keep the eastern tropical Pacific cool,

13
00:00:28,033 --> 00:00:30,566
driving cooler global temperatures
and a drier southern U.S..

14
00:00:31,400 --> 00:00:34,966
We've been experiencing a rare triple dip
or three years of La Niña, impacting

15
00:00:34,966 --> 00:00:36,766
drought in the American Southwest
and producing slightly

16
00:00:36,766 --> 00:00:39,166
cooler global temperatures
than we might expect otherwise.

17
00:00:39,466 --> 00:00:42,600
ENSO’s minor effects on global temperature
are one reason the past few years

18
00:00:42,600 --> 00:00:46,000
have been slightly cooler than 2020
or 2016 -- El Niño years.

19
00:00:46,366 --> 00:00:49,100
However, temperature shifts
ENSO brings aren't nearly as significant

20
00:00:49,100 --> 00:00:51,200
as the global pattern of warming
caused by humans.

21
00:00:51,400 --> 00:00:55,000
In fact, current La Niña -- cooler
-- years are warmer than previous El Niño

22

00:00:55,000 --> 00:00:56,166
-- warmer -- years.