**Albedo values for different Earth surfaces**

* **Fresh snow:** 0.8 - 0.9 (very high reflectivity)
* **Desert sand:** 0.3 - 0.4
* **Grassland:** 0.2 - 0.25
* **Forest:** 0.05 - 0.15
* **Open ocean:** 0.06
* **Wet soil:** 0.09
* **Dry soil:** 0.19
* **Asphalt:** 0.05 - 0.12

Key points:

* **High albedo surfaces:**

Fresh snow, light-colored sand, and ice have the highest albedo due to their high reflectivity.

* **Low albedo surfaces:**

Forests, dark soil, and open water have low albedo as they absorb more sunlight.

* **Albedo variation:**

The albedo of a surface can vary depending on factors like moisture content, vegetation cover, and the angle of the sun.

In epochs when a large part of Earth’s land area is in the tropics and middle latitudes rather than polar areas, with the rest being oceans, what would average Earth albedo be, compared with when a larger share of Earth’s land area is not in the tropics and middle latitudes?