

## **Albedo**

**Albedo** is a measure of the light reflectivity of an object. High albedo means good reflectivity therefore, light in colour. Low albedo means poor reflectivity, therefore dark in colour. Low albedo is much better at absorbing solar radiation and therefore warms up more than high albedo.

- dark soil - low albedo
- white sand - high albedo
- ice - high albedo (light and shiny)
- oceans - low (very good at absorbing radiation)

**Run-away Greenhouse Effect:** Greenhouse warming melts sea and land ice. This change high albedo surface to low albedo surface. This has the effect of absorbing more solar radiation, causing further warming. This is called a "positive feedback loop".