

Checklist

What you should know

After studying this subtopic, you should be able to:

- Outline what emissivity is.
- Outline what albedo is and explain why the Earth's albedo varies.
- Define and calculate the solar constant, S .
- Explain why some gases in the Earth's atmosphere absorb infrared radiation and others do not.
- Apply a resonance model and an energy level model to explain the greenhouse effect.
- Solve energy balance problems where energy is exchanged between the surface and the atmosphere of a body.

