

# THE BALANCE OF LIFE

## LEGEND

- **Atmosphere:** #1 Space, #2 Exosphere, #3 Thermosphere (Aurora Borealis), #4 Mesosphere (ozone layer), #5 Troposphere
- **Common Cloud Types:** #1 Vapour and Ash from Volcanoes, #2 Cumulonimbus #3 Alto-cumulus, #4 Cirrus, #5 Cumulus and Stratocumulus
- **Geologic Formations:** #1 Volcano, #2 Mountain, #3 Hills & Valleys
- **Hydrology:** #1 Lake, #2 River, #3 Marsh, #4 Stream, #5 Spring, #6 Ephemeral Pool, #7 Underground River or Stream
- **Fauna:** #1 Birds, #2 Mammals, #3 Amphibians, Fish, Reptiles, Insects
- **Flora:** Trees, grasses, flowers, fungi (mycology)
- **Palaeontology:** Bones, fossils
- **Archaeology:** Artifacts and dwellings left as evidence of human habitation

### Keystone Species

Corner animals; top left, clockwise: bear, rabbit, beaver, fox

A keystone species is an organism that is disproportionately important to an ecosystem compared to other species within that same system. Without that specific species the ecosystem would be dramatically changed or cease to exist.



The Balance of Life mural attempts to demonstrate the interaction of different environmental systems of our earth. The study of any of these systems of life on our planet inevitably is interconnected with many other systems working together, such as trees and fungi interdependency. This mural illustrates just some of the many ways that different sciences work together.