

What are Killifish?

Killifish are small, tropical, freshwater fish that live in Africa, South America, and Southeast Asia. There are over 750 species of killifish around the world. Killifish are very tough and survive in habitats that dry up each year. When their pools dry up, developing babies survive in eggs buried in the soil. During this time, they go into deep, dormant, states where they stop growing. When the rains return and their puddles flood, the killifish wake up, hatch out, and begin a new life cycle!

Trivia: *What do fish scales and human teeth have in common?*

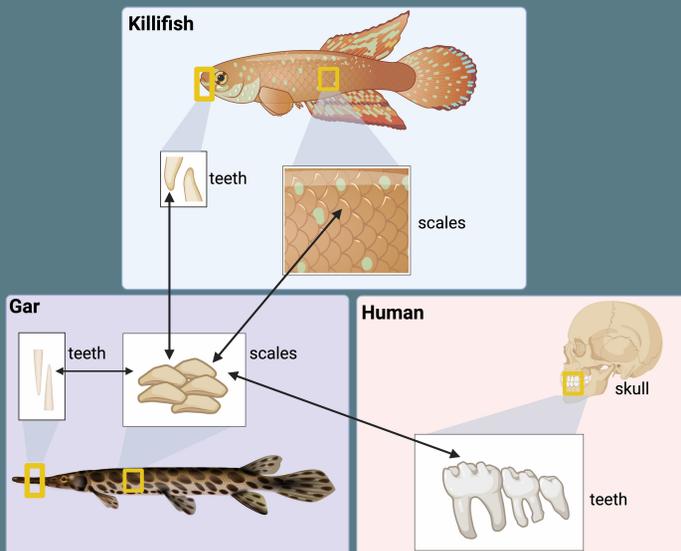
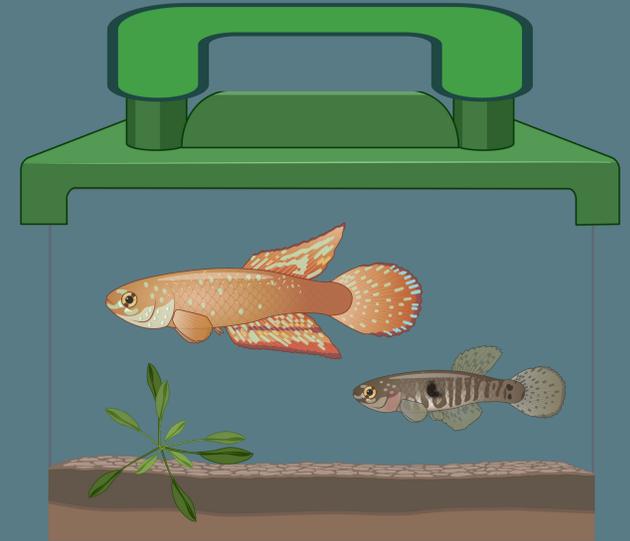
At first glance, it appears that killifish and humans don't have a lot in common. But when we compare them both to "ancient" fishes like gar, we can see some new similarities. For example, after looking at gars' bony scales, fossils, and genes we learn that humans and fish evolved teeth from fish scales!



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Killi-Kits

Life Cycle and Care



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BEACON An NSF Center for the Study of Evolution in Action



Braasch Lab at MSU

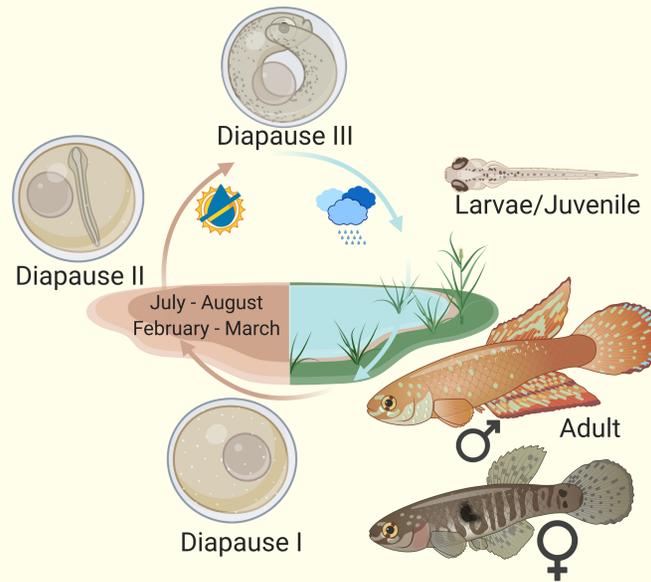
Each kit includes:

- One clear Killi-Case
- One container of killifish eggs on peat moss
- Brushes to clean and pick up eggs
- Brine shrimp and pipettes for feeding
- One smartphone microscope
- One air pump and airline tubing to hatch brine shrimp

Not included:

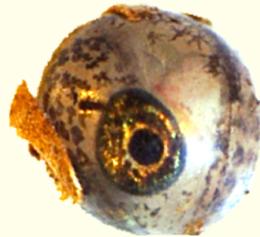
- Non-iodized salt
- Water dechlorinator
- 1 liter bottle
- Please Note: Adult fish will need to be transferred to a bigger tank as they grow.

Killifish Life Cycle:



Egg/Embryo:

When your baby killies are ready to hatch, you will know because their eyes will sparkle through the smartphone microscope.



Ready to hatch!

Baby/Juvenile:

Once the babies hatch, they will need to eat a lot and grow fast! Feed them hatched brine shrimpe 1-2 times a day.

Adult:

As the babies grow into adults, males will get larger and colorful and females will begin to lay eggs of their own in peat moss!

Care Instructions:

See our ofFISHial step-by-step guide and fill out our survey at:

<https://drewt1023.wixsite.com/andrewwthompson/killi-kits>

See our instructional video guide:

<https://youtu.be/NDIhZ2liuKI>

More Information:

<https://www.aka.org/beginner>

<https://drewt1023.wixsite.com/andrewwthompson>

<http://www.itrainfishes.net/content/>

<https://wildnothos.wixsite.com/wildnothos>



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