



Fossil Fish

The beautiful fossil fish are estimated to be over 50 million years old and divided into two main species; "Diplomystus" and "Knightia". All the fossils at Fascinating Facets and The Crystal Caves are imported directly from the Green Rivver quarries in Wyoming, USA.

The largest herring genus in the ancient lake deposits is the Diplomystus. It can be distinguished from the Knightia by the presence and pattern of scale rows or scutes that lie along the midline of the back from the skull to the dorsal fin. The deep bodied form and elongate anal fin are easily recognizable traits of this fish. In the late 1800's, Professor E.D. Cope described three species of Diplomystus. The largest and most widely known is the Diplomystus dentatus. It was this species of fish from Fossil Syncline Lake, prepared by Carl Ulrich, that was chosen by the late President Eisenhower as a gift to the Emperor of Japan from the American people. The body form and upturned mouth indicate that the fish probably fed on smaller surface dwelling species such as Knightia and Priscacara. Several prime examples of Diplomystus' diet have turned up in the stomachs of a few specimen



Knightia is an extinct genus of fish well-known from abundant fossils found in the Green River Formation of Wyoming, United States. They rarely exceeded 25 cm in length and are found throughout the formation. Knightia was a slender fish and seems to have been a secondary consumer, feeding mainly on ostracods, algal forms and diatoms, as well as some smaller fish. They were schooling fish, and because of this they are frequently found together in mass mortality layers. The tendency for individual fishes to cluster in groups was probably quite common. Modern forms of small fish are noted for schooling, and it is highly probable that the ancient types associated similarly. Knightia were abundant and important because they were included in the diets of most of the Green River Formation's larger fishes. They were double scuted, having rows of dorsal and ventral scutes running from the posterior end of the head back to the median fins. Knightia is the state fossil of the state of Wyoming.



All Fossil Fish imported by Fascinating Facets and The Crystal Caves follow the strict guidelines established by the American Association of Paleontological Suppliers Code of Ethics and also conform to all State and Federal laws.