How Grain Size Corresponds with Human Habitation
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Introduction
- Site in South Inlet Park, Boca Raton, Florida on a Barrier Island
- Area known for prehistoric human habitation
- Human activity may alter grain size
- Study to see if grain size changed during human habitation
- Two excavation units (Unit 1 and Unit 2) were excavated during the summer of 2018

Methods
- Sediment was collected from each 10 cm layer in the excavated unit (e.g. Figures 2 & 3)
- Measured 208.0 g of wet sediment from the selected level
- Dried sediment in oven overnight at 50.0 Degrees C
- Weighed dry sediment and recorded data
- Placed sample in the sieve set
- Sifted the sediment for 15 minutes
- Weighed the sediment based on size and recorded the weight
- Divided each weight by the total for relative weight

Discussion
- Unit 1
  - Pre-human habitation the grain size is larger (levels 8-10)
  - During human habitation (Feature 1) and afterwards grain size decreases
  - Grain size increases again in the relatively recent sediments (levels 1-3)
- Unit 2
  - Grain size is largest in the oldest sediments (levels 8-10)
  - Grain size again decreases in levels where artifacts were present (levels 4-7)
  - Grain size increases again in the recent sediments (levels 2-3)
  - Generally grain size decreased during times of human habitation, indicating that humans altered the sediment characteristics

Works Cited
1. Endonino et al. (2009) Data recovery excavations at the Boca Raton Inlet Midden 3 Site, BP866, Palm Beach County, Florida, FDHR Project No.: 2007-0999, Report
2. ASTM D 422 Standard Test Method for Particle Size Analysis of Soils.