

Artifact of the Month

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

September 2016



We all recognize this tasty soft drink, but did you know it's been around for over fifty years? This month's artifact is a Sprite bottle made in 1966, collected from an historic camp site on the Brighton Reservation.

In 1966, the Coca Cola Corporation agreed to participate in a special promotion with the National Park Service to help increase awareness of America's national parks. If you

look closely at the embossing on the base of the bottle (above), it reads "MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK." 36 different parks were featured on the base of Sprite bottles in hope it would encourage more Americans to come out and visit! In fact, Florida's very own Everglades National Park was one of the lucky parks to make the cut.

Not only is this an interesting part of American history, but it helps us define the archaeological record of the Brighton Reservation, where this bottle was found. We know these bottles were only manufactured in 1966, giving THPO Collection staff an incredibly accurate tool to determine when this site was in use.

So the next time you find an old bottle, take a look at the base. It may be old, but you may learn something new!

