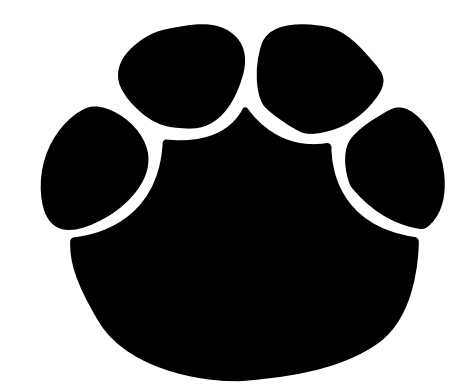


Ella the Elephant



Ella was an elephant. She walked with her herd.

The ground was dry. Dust rose with each step.

Older elephants led the way. Younger ones followed, close together. Tails swayed. Ears flapped.

At the waterhole, they stopped. Birds flew up from the edge. Ella stepped in slowly.

Her feet sank into the mud.

She used her trunk to drink.

Swoosh. Sip. Swoosh.

She sprayed water on her back.

It cooled her thick skin.



Nearby, a calf played in the shallows. It splashed and stumbled. One elephant rumbled low and soft.

The sound rolled across the water. Ella stood still.

Water dripped from her trunk. She blinked slowly.

The sun glowed on her wet skin. After a while, the herd turned. They walked on together, leaving wide tracks in the mud.

