

Critter Crew: Beaver Is Best – A tale of humility

- 1, 2. It was a beautiful day, and all of the critter friends were playing together in the Friendship Forest.
- 3, 4. All of a sudden, Beaver points his finger in the air and declares, "I have come to the conclusion: Beaver is best!"
5. He continues on, "Beaver is the best at chewing."
Fun fact: Beavers' teeth are orange because they contain iron, which is why their teeth don't break when they are chewing on trees.
6. "Beaver is the best at holding his breath."
Fun Fact: Beavers have large lungs and can hold their breath up to 15 minutes.
7. "Beaver smells the best."
Fun fact: Beavers smell like vanilla.
8. "And of course, Beaver is the best at building." Fun fact: Beaver lodges are very complex, with special rooms for eating and sleeping, and secret exits to escape danger.
- 9,10. Beaver declares that only animals that are 'beaver-enough' can visit him in Beaversburg.
11. Beaver tests his friends on chewing wood. When Flamingo cant chew, Beaver slaps his tail on the floor and declares; "Not beaver enough!"
12. Beaver tests his friends on swimming in the water. When Squirrel can only dog paddle, Beaver slaps his tale on the floor and declares; "Not beaver enough!"
13. Beaver tests his friends on how good they smell. When Skunk jumps out of line, Beaver slaps his tail on the ground and declares; "Not beaver enough!"
14. Beaver tests his friends on building. When Hedgehog cant lift heavy logs, Beaver slaps his tail on the ground and declares: "Not beaver enough!"
- 15,16. One by one Beaver has eliminated the other animals from staying at Beaversburg. Beaver is the only one that is beaver enough. For that moment, Beaver feels very proud.
- 17,18. Beaver is the only one on Beaversburg, He starts to wonder what his friends are doing. He watches Flamingo perform a dance and entertain the friends.
- 19,20. Next, he watches Squirrel juggle acorns to make the friends laugh.
- 21,22. Later, he watches Skunk hand everyone wildflowers she had collected to make the friends feel special.
- 23,24. Then, he watches Hedgehog roll into a ball and teach the friends to somersault.
25. Beaver feels something very strange. It is not pride. For the first time in his life, Beaver feels lonely.
26. The gentle voice of the wise old tree whispers; "Sometimes being equal among friends is more important than being the best alone."
27. Beaver climbs down from Beaversburg and swims over to the friends.
28. As he gets out of the water, Beaver sees he has hurt his friends' feelings. He knows what he has to do.
- 29, 30. Beaver tells his friends "I am sorry."
Together, the friends give him a hug. "Beaver. We forgive you."
31. Beaver realizes that Beaver isn't best. Friendship is best
32. Best traits: Go around a circle and share one thing that you think your *neighbor* is best at.

Activity Kits and coloring pages: Available on website for free.

Option: Count the poison dart frogs which are hidden among the pages. Can you find one yellow frog, two red frogs, three blue frogs, and four green frogs?