

Critter Crew: Squirrel Wants More – A tale of sharing

- 1, 2. It was a beautiful day, and all of the critter friends were playing together in the Friendship Forest.
3. Springtime had come, and a few blackberries had sprouted on a vine. Squirrel was the first to see them. She grabbed her basket and quickly picked them.
4. Seeing Squirrel collect the berries, the friends ran over to see what she had found.
Fun Fact: Blackberries can often be seen growing in the wild, and are a sweet and delicious treat when ripe.
5. Rabbit said, "Those blackberries sure look yummy! Can we have some?" But Squirrel says "No."
6. Squirrel won't share. And Squirrel wants more.
Hedgehog likes the thought of eating berries. She follows in Squirrel's footsteps.
7. Squirrel sees a blueberry bush and dashes off to collect more berries. Hedgehog follows along. Squirrel spins around to Hedgehog and says "The blueberries on these bushes are mine." Fun Fact: Blueberries are the only food that is naturally blue in color.
8. As Squirrel picks, Hedgehog takes a few blueberries off the ground. She is excited as they burst in her mouth.
9. Squirrel continues through the forest, wanting more. She finds wild strawberry plants and begins to pick them one by one.
Fun Fact: Strawberries contain more Vitamin C than oranges!
10. As Squirrel picks, Hedgehog finds a few strawberries left behind. She loves how juicy they are when she bites down.
11. Squirrel has a full basket, but Squirrel wants more. She sees a cherry tree and bounces up into the branches.
Fun Fact: Cherries are heart-shaped, which reminds us they are good for our hearts.
12. As Squirrel picks the cherries, Hedgehog finds a few that fall down. She remembers to take the seeds out as she eats the super juicy fruit.
13. Squirrel has a lot in her basket, but Squirrel wants more. She continues along and finds a raspberry shrub. She picks all the berries on the plant.
Fun Fact: Raspberries can be red, black, purple, or golden.
14. As Squirrel picks the big ones, Hedgehog finds a few small ones. She loves how they are both sweet and tart.
15. Squirrel has a very full basket, but Squirrel wants more. She sees a beehive high in a tree and scoops out as many pawfuls as she can.
Fun Fact: It takes the full lifespan of 12 honeybees to make one teaspoon of honey.
16. When Squirrel leaves the hive, Hedgehog gets the last drips. She loves how it tastes sweeter than sugar.
17. Squirrel drags her overflowing basket back to her burrow. It is exhausting. Skunk follows along.
18. Hedgehog sees there are so many things in Squirrel's basket that all the berries have been crushed.
19. Squirrel tries to push her basket into her burrow. She uses all of her strength, but the basket is so full that it just won't fit.
20. Hedgehog sees that Squirrel tried to collect too much for just one critter.
21. Squirrel begins to realize that she has collected too much. And what she has is ruined.

22. The wise old tree offers: Happiness isn't about just having things. It is about sharing and enjoying with others.
23. Hedgehog sees that Squirrel has nothing. She leaves and goes to the friends for help.
24. Hedgehog tells the friends that Squirrel needs help, and also tells them where to find the best berries and honey in the forest.
25. The friends split up, each collecting one basket of berries or honey to share.
26. Beaver collects blackberries, Flamingo collects blueberries, Hedgehog collects strawberries, Skunk collects raspberries, Sloth collects cherries, Chipmunk collects honey.
27. All the critters come together and pour their berries into a great big bowl. For the finishing touch, Chipmunk drizzles honey all over the top. "It's a friendship salad!" announces Rabbit.
28. The crew all enjoy the salad together. Squirrel realizes that sharing is more important than having it all.
- 29, 30. A perfect way to teach sharing and caring: Friendship Salad.
Recipe: Everyone should bring one cup of either blackberries, blueberries, cut strawberries, raspberries, or pitted cherries. Have the organizer bring a jar of honey and a bag of mini-marshmallows. Make sure everyone has a cup or gets to contribute something. Pour together and add the honey last.

Activity Kits: 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?