

A moment that changed my life Kayaking in Devon

We were on holiday and we hired two kayaks when we were at a lovely cottage at Helford. It was our family's summer holiday and I had two kayaks to share with my brothers and my one sister my mum and my dad hired a boat to be with us .

The river was very pretty and we went to kayak over the wide sheltered bay. The kayaks were open top sea kayaks and did not look very stable when I first saw them. The one I went in was orange.

I was scared because I was not a very good kayaker and swimmer, although I was learning. The sea looked rough and choppy, I thought I might capsize, and I didn't have a splash deck. This is like a wetsuit but only goes round the place where you sit and your tummy, or a dry suit which is like a waterproof but used in a kayak to do Eskimo rolls. There were also a lot of big boats around the river, so I felt very small. If you have a splash deck and capsize with lots of people around, bang three times on the kayak and then with the handle push forward and pull up.

When we hired the two kayaks, I kayaked over the rocks and almost got stuck, that was fun, I could hear the rocks on the back of the kayak! And I also kayaked over the wide sheltered bay. I was worried in case I fell out because I knew it would be out of my depth although the boat was there I wondered how I would get it back to the right side so I could carry on with kayaking. I was really happy and excited but when we had to get out and head back to the house I was really sad because I knew I couldn't do any more kayaking until next summer.

Since then I've never been scared of water. I have also been able to kayak near my home whenever I want to as long as the water is low enough, otherwise I would get washed down the river. I love kayaking that's why I joined the canoe club. I have learned how to do a support stroke, which is when if you feel like you are capsizing you slap the water with the blade or paddle and it will

stop you falling over. If you are capsizing near a branch never hold onto it because you might get wedged on the branch and get stuck in the water. I made that mistake and did almost get stuck in the river because you get stuck in roots and that would not be good! I also know another stroke where you put the paddle as far forward as possible and pull all the way to the back of the boat. Kayaking in Devon changed my life because it was such fun and gave me a new hobby, which I really enjoy.