



Autism and Related Statistics

Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month - Week 4



Statistics

- 1 in 36 children are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) (actual presence of autism in the population may be higher).
- Around 78% of diagnosed autistic children are male.
- Equally common across racial and ethnic groups.
- ASD is mostly caused by genetic factors (~80%), not environmental factors.
- Average age of diagnosis is between three and four years-old, but adult diagnoses are increasing.



Statistics pt. 2

- 74% of autistic children have at least one additional diagnosis:
 - ~35% of autistic children are diagnosed with ADHD
 - ~21% have a sleep disorder
 - ~18% have an anxiety disorder
- 60% of autistic children and young adults experience bullying, with high schoolers being the most likely to be bullied.
- The Department of Education spent \$15 billion on special education programs in 2024.



Stephen Wiltshire (MBE, Hon. FSAI, Hon. FSSAA)

- Born on April 24, 1974 in London to West Indian Parents.
- He was mute as a child and didn't relate to other people.
- He was diagnosed with autism at the age of three years-old.
- The way he communicated with the world as a child was through the language of his artwork and it was his only hobby.
 - He didn't speak until his teachers took away his artwork. He first only uttered sounds and later his first word was "paper." He went on to speak fully by the age of nine.



Stephen Wiltshire pt. 2

- His autistic superpower is his ability to draw and paint detailed and lifelike cityscapes from memory and his encyclopedic knowledge of American cars.
- He received his first commission from the British Prime Minister to draw Salisbury Cathedral when he was only eight.
- In February 1987, he was dubbed as “possibly the best child artist in Britain” by the former president of London’s Royal Academy of Arts.
- In January 2006, he was named by the late Queen Elizabeth II as a Member of the Order of the British Empire, in recognition of his services to the art world.

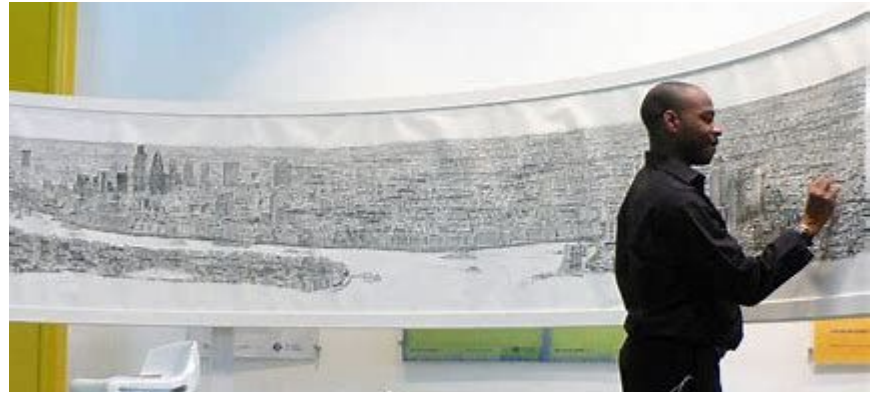
Stephen Wiltshire pt. 3

- Some of his most notable works include:
 - Viewing London aboard a helicopter and subsequently completing a detailed and perfectly scaled aerial illustration of a four-square-mile area within three hours (2001).
 - Made the largest panoramic drawing of his career of Tokyo entirely from memory and then did the same thing for Rome two months later (May 2005).
 - After a 20-minute helicopter ride, Stephen spent a week creating a ten-meter-long drawing of Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour (Dec. 2005).
 - He spent a five day marathon drawing New York on a six-metres canvas live on CBS.

Stephen Wiltshire pt. 4

He opened his own permanent art gallery in London in 2006, dispelling myths that autistic people cannot run their own businesses and travel.

“It is easy for me to remember things I find interesting.”



“The most intriguing qualities of an exciting city must have 'chaos and order at the same time, the avenues and squares, skyscrapers as well as traffic jams, the chaotic rush hour and people.’”

Kayla Cromer



- Born on Valentine's Day of 1998 in San Jose, California.
- In 2020, she started playing Matilda in the show *Everything's Gonna Be Okay*.
 - This was the first time an autistic person played an autistic character in a series regular role on American television.
- She also played an autistic med student on *The Good Doctor*, a show whose main character is an autistic surgeon (played by non-autistic actor Freddie Highmore (whose depiction has been noted as respectful, mostly accurate to an autistic man's experience, and defying stereotypes that autistic people cannot handle high-stress jobs or be professional.))



Weekly Challenge/Discussion Questions

- What are some strategies that you use in learning?
- How have teachers in your classes made it easier for you to learn?



Passion / Hyperfixation Spirit Day

As we've learned, Autistic people have deep interests and you can help express yours by wearing something that represents a favorite topic, movie, show, book, etc.

This Friday!