

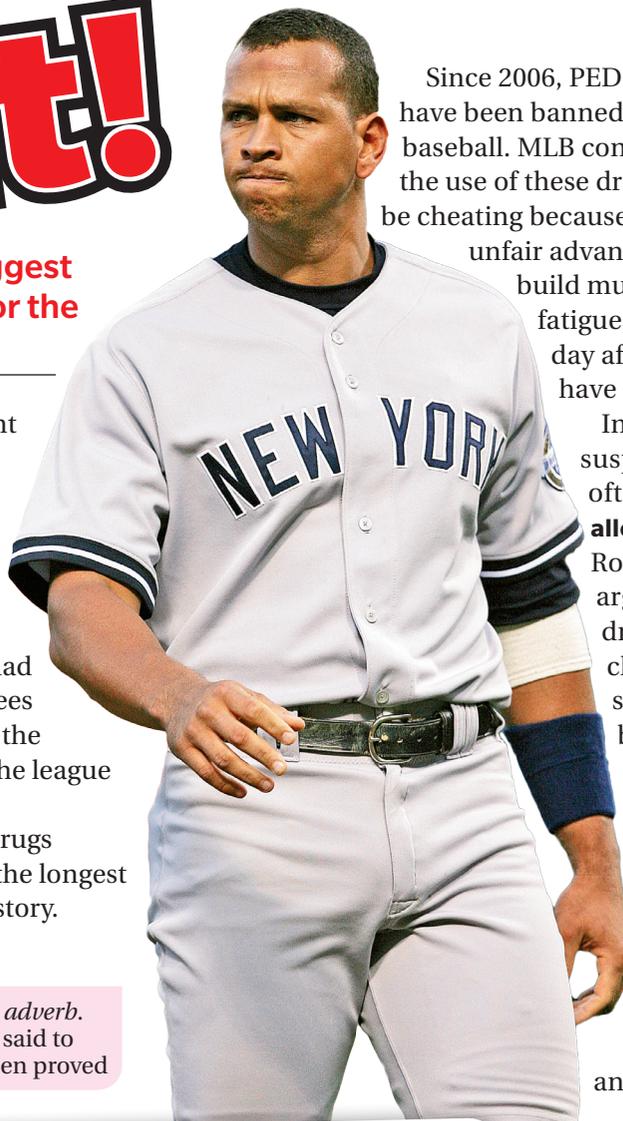
# He's Out!

One of baseball's biggest stars is suspended for the 2014 season

Baseball season is right around the corner, but one of the game's greatest players won't be taking the field this year. In January, Major League Baseball (MLB) announced that it had suspended New York Yankees slugger Alex Rodriguez for the entire 162-game season. The league claims he repeatedly used performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs). His suspension is the longest for drug use in baseball history.

**Word to Know**

**allegedly** (uh-LEH-juh-d-lee) *adverb*. describing something that is said to have happened but hasn't been proved



**\$22 MILLION**

Estimated salary that Alex Rodriguez will lose during his suspension

Source: MLB.com

Since 2006, PEDs have been banned in baseball. MLB considers the use of these drugs to be cheating because they can give players an unfair advantage. PEDs help athletes build muscle and recover from fatigue, allowing them to play well day after day. But PEDs can also have dangerous side effects.

In August 2013, MLB suspended Rodriguez, who's often called A-Rod, for allegedly using PEDs. Rodriguez fought the ruling, arguing that he never failed a drug test. However, MLB claims to have evidence that shows that the slugger used banned substances over the course of three seasons.

A-Rod was allowed to finish the 2013 season while his suspension was under review. But in January, MLB announced that he will have to sit out all of 2014. A-Rod continues to deny any wrongdoing.

**PICTURE THIS**



## Wild Light Show

Now that's a night-light! This dazzling display in the night sky is known as the aurora borealis, or northern lights. The colorful ribbons of light pictured here are dancing in the sky over Iceland. The northern lights are most visible in areas close to the North Pole, but once in a while you can catch a glimpse of them as far south as Florida!

PAGE 2: ©MITCH STRINGER/ICOM/SNI/CORBIS/STOPI; LARRY GERBRANDY/BARKCROFT USA/LANDOV (BOTTOM); PAGE 3: NASA (LEFT), BILL O'LEARY/THE WASHINGTON POST/GETTY IMAGES (RIGHT)

# Chasing a Comet

After a long hibernation, a spacecraft prepares for the first-ever meeting with a comet

In January, a space probe named *Rosetta* awoke from a 31-month sleep. Hours later, it sent a radio signal to scientists 500 million miles away on Earth. The signal meant *Rosetta* was ready to begin the next leg of its journey. If all goes well, it will become the first spacecraft to orbit a comet and land a robot on its surface.

Scientists at the European Space Agency (ESA) launched *Rosetta* 10 years ago. Its mission is to learn more about comets—balls of ice and dust that orbit the sun. In 2011, the ESA put *Rosetta* into “sleep mode” to save power. Now that the spacecraft is out of hibernation, ESA scientists will spend the next few months making

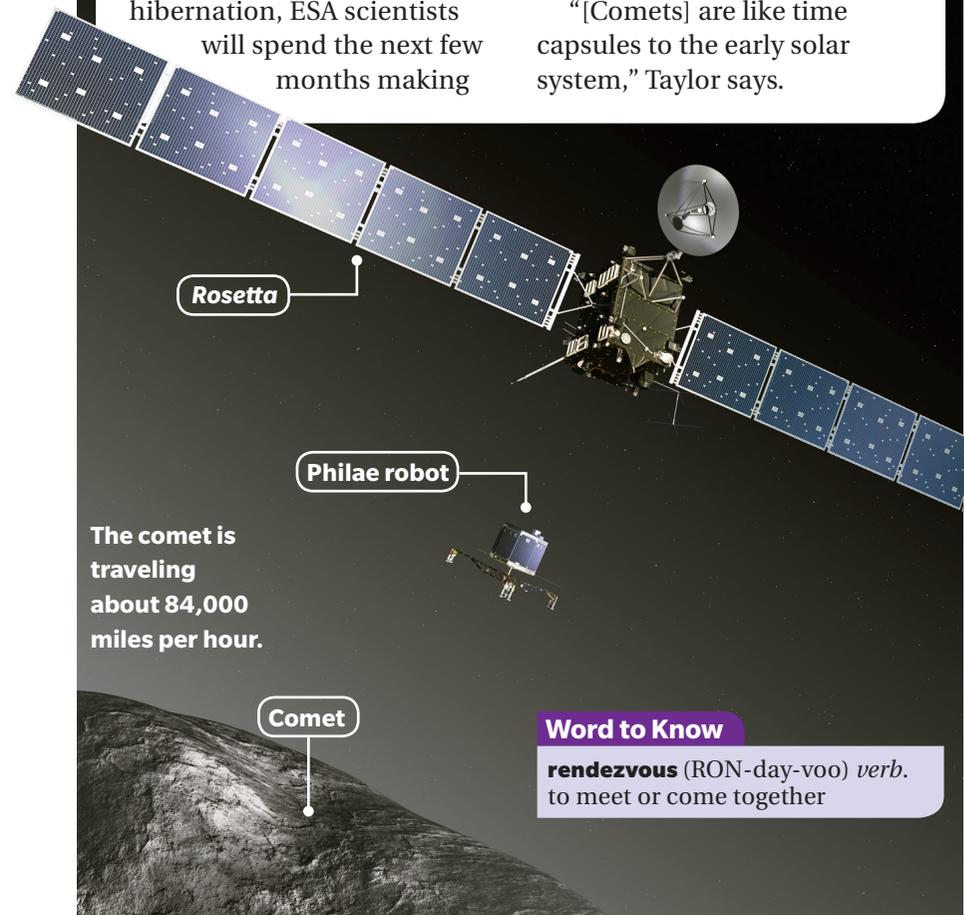
sure all its instruments are working properly.

*Rosetta* is scheduled to rendezvous with a comet and begin orbiting it in August. The spacecraft will use high-tech instruments to study the comet from above. In November, *Rosetta* will attempt to land a robot named Philae (FEE-lay) on the comet's surface.

“That's the cherry on top of the mission,” says Matthew Taylor, a scientist at the ESA.

Comets are billions of years old. Scientists hope that by studying comets like the one *Rosetta* will orbit, they can learn about how our solar system formed and changed over time.

“[Comets] are like time capsules to the early solar system,” Taylor says.

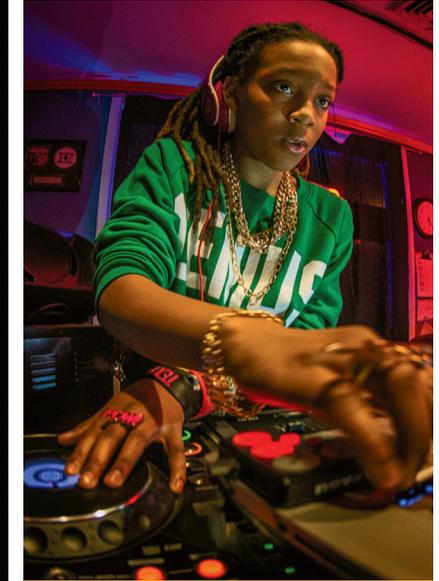


The comet is traveling about 84,000 miles per hour.

**Word to Know**

**rendezvous** (RON-day-voo) *verb*. to meet or come together

**KID SPOTLIGHT**



## Rockin' Out

Sierra Roundtree never misses a beat. The seventh-grader from Washington, D.C., goes by the name DJ Beauty and the Beatz. At just 12 years old, she is one of the youngest professional DJs in the country.

“Being a DJ is about making art through music,” Sierra says. “DJs control the crowd using music. Anything you play, the crowd responds to.”

Sierra landed her first gig as a DJ when she was just 8 years old and living in Las Vegas, Nevada. These days, she gets crowds dancing at birthday parties and events in the nation's capital. She has also traveled to Miami, Florida, to perform. On March 9, she'll hit the stage in New York City at an event hosted by the television station VH1. The young DJ has even bigger plans for the future.

“My goal is to be known all around the world,” she says.