



Sing for Hull

With the Albemarle Broadband



Week 4 – Waka Waka (This Time For Africa)

Listening Activities

Waka Waka (This Time For Africa) was written by Shakira and John Hill for the 2010 FIFA World Cup which was held in South Africa. The song features the South African **Afro-fusion** band *Freshlyground* and has influences from the Calypso style **Soca** music. Listen to the original version of the song and answer these questions:

1. What genre of music do you think this song is?
2. The lyrics in the song talk about a soldier on a battlefield but it is not a song about war. It was written for a football event. What do you think the link is between these two things? What do you think the message of the song is?
3. The bridge of the song is sung by South African band *Freshlyground*. Can you hear how they layer their voices to add texture and harmony to the song?
4. Some people were upset that Shakira was chosen to sing this song, as she is from Columbia, not South Africa. They felt it should have been a South African singer to represent the people of their country. What do you think about this?
5. The song is heavily influenced by **Soca** style **calypso** music. Listen to some of this and compare. Can you hear elements of this style of music in the song?
6. Do you like the song? Why?
7. Can you think of any other songs that were written for a sporting event?

Waka Waka (This Time For Africa) – Did you know?

Did you know that, as well as containing **Soca calypso** elements, the song is also influenced by the music of **South Africa** and **Cameroon**. The chorus of the song and the words "waka waka" were taken from the song *Zamina mina (Zangaléwa)*, which was recorded in 1986 by *Golden Sounds*, a band from Cameroon. After Shakira and John Hill first wrote the song, they asked South African band *Freshlyground* if they could add something to the song. They wrote the bridge, which added traditional South African elements to the song.