

UNIT 5 : PROTEST SONGS

STEP 1 : « BORDERS »

1. LISTEN TO THE SONG & ITS LYRICS.

a) **Circle or highlight** all the words you recognize.

Freedom – kingdom – meet - item – key - smartphones - boredom - people – shoulders - weapons – identities – politics – police – broke people – boat people – money – privilege - new world – old world – real - system – kick – children - values – families – histories – the past- teens – goals - girls – boys – toys – pearls – killing – love – weak - hate – pray – future – wins – loses – power – scoop – internet – peeps – FM - eagles – BBC - scared – keep it cool – parents – sadness - money



b) **Listen** to the first verse and chorus of the song. **Find** the missing words.

(Verse 1)

Borders : what's up with that?

..... : what's up with that?

..... shots : what's up with that?

..... : what's up with that?

Your : what's up with that?

Broke : what's up with that?

..... people : what's up with that?

The realness : what's up with that?

The new : what's up with that?

I'm gonna keep up on all that.

(Chorus 2X)

Guns blows doors to the

Yeah fk 'em when we say we're not with them !**

We're solid and we don't need to kick them.

This is,, and Western !

c) **THINK** : Can you deduce what this song is about ?

2. WATCHING THE VIDEO « Borders », directed by MIA.

a) **VOCABULARY** : match each word with its definition.

1. A crisis is ...	a) ... a person who has come to a different country in order to live there permanently
2. An immigrant is...	b) ... a separation barrier that runs along an international border. Such barriers are typically constructed for border control purposes such as controlling illegal immigration, human trafficking, and smuggling.
3. A refugee is ...	c) ... a place offering protection and safety; a shelter.
4. A border fence is ...	d) ... a crucial stage or turning point in the course of something, especially in a sequence of events or a disease.
5. An asylum is ...	e) ... a person who has escaped from their own country for political, religious, or economic reasons or because of a war.

b) **WATCH THE VIDEO.** What can you see during this video ? What's shocking you?

Take notes in your notebook.

c) **TALK** : What does this video denounce ?

d) **THINK** : Let's analyse these screenshots from the video.



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e) **READ** this short presentation of MIA.

Who is MIA ?

Maya Arulpragasam (aka MIA) is a famous rapper, singer, fashion designer, producer, and refugee born in 1975. When she was 9, her family fled violence in Sri Lanka and came to London, and the experience was formative for her art. As she explained to *The Guardian* in 2005 after the release of her debut album *Arular*, "I was a refugee because of war and now I have a voice in a time when war is the most invested thing on the planet. What I thought I should do with this record is make every refugee kid that came over after me have something to feel good about. Take everybody's bad bits and say, 'Actually, they're good bits. Now watcha gonna do?'"

What link can you do between her experience and the message of this song and its video ?

CONCLUSION : What makes « *BORDERS* » a protest song ? Do you think it's a good protest song ? Why ?