

# Who were the cowboys and what was their life like?

## Who were they?

- The first cowboys were the Spanish **vacqueros** in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century who looked after cattle in the Mexican lands that became Texas
- Most of the first cowboys were from **Texas** and the **southern states**
- Many were first cowboys were not white but **Spanish Mexicans**, or **Mexicans**
- After the end of the civil war in 1865 many **white southerners** were keen to leave the war-devastated south, **black veterans** of the Unionist army and **newly freed slaves** in the South became cowboys looking for a new life
- Later, others came from **Europe** or other parts of America looking for work



## Where did they work?

## What did they do?

## When did they work?

## Were they dangerous?

## Was the work of cowboys dangerous?

## Why can they be compared to Indians?



## How would you sum up the life of cowboys?