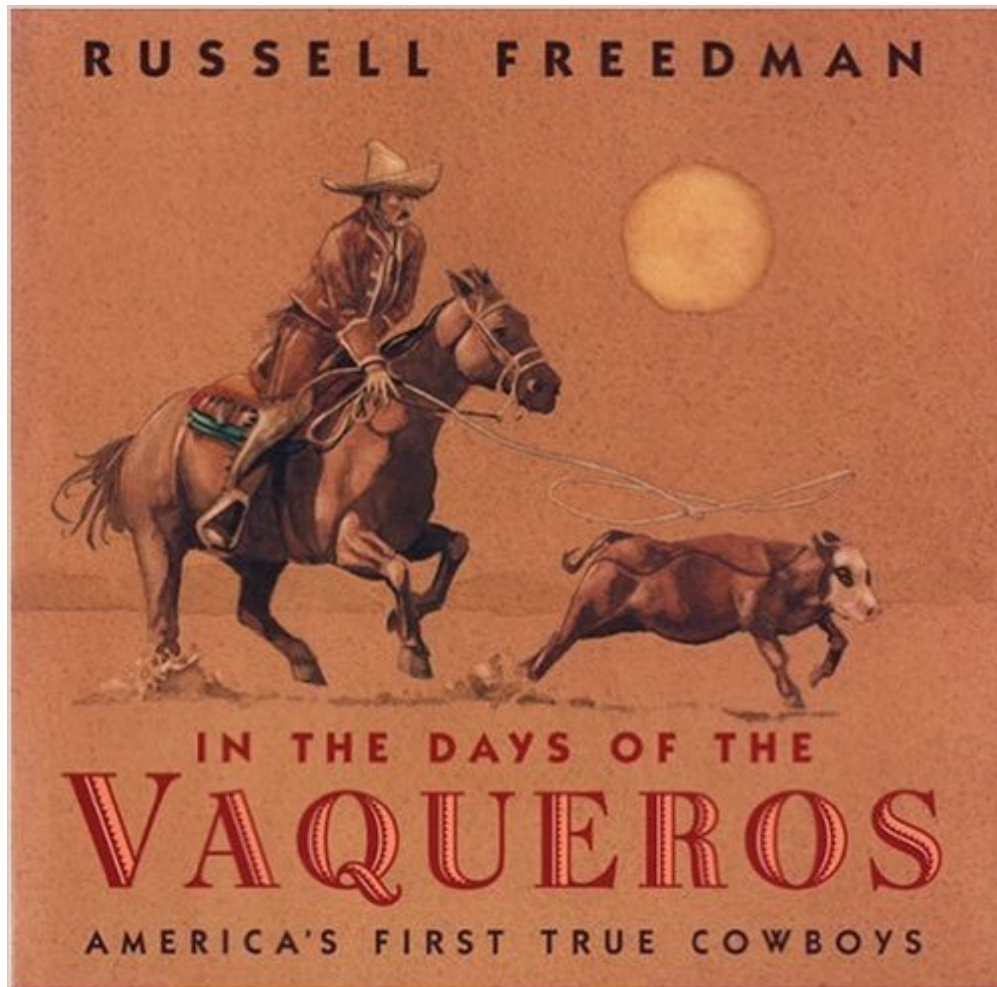


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# In The Days Of The Vaqueros: America's First True Cowboys



## Synopsis

In this rousing account of the first true cowboys, Newbery Medalist Russell Freedman brings to life the days when the vaqueros rounded up cattle, brought down steers, and tamed wild broncos. In the service of wealthy Spanish conquistadors in the sixteenth century, Mexican ranch hands began herding cattle, often riding barefoot. They soon developed and perfected the skills for this dangerous work and became expert horsemen. Hundred of years later the vaqueros shared their expertise with the inexperienced cowboys of the American West, who adopted their techniques and their distinctive clothing, tools, and even lingo. Yet today it is the cowboy whom we remember, while the vaquero has all but disappeared from history. The vaqueros are at last given their due in this dramatic narrative, lushly illustrated with beautiful period paintings and drawings.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1180L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 80 pages

Publisher: Clarion Books; First Hardcover Edition edition (October 15, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0395967880

ISBN-13: 978-0395967881

Product Dimensions: 9.9 x 9.8 x 0.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #312,176 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in [Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > Mexico](#) #13 in [Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Social Science > Anthropology](#) #18 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Mexico](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Russell Freedman's, "In the Days of the Vaqueros" was written for young adults and in this endeavor it succeeds. It is a 70 page hard back book with numerous high quality paintings, sketches and photographs. He tells the story of the Vaqueros from the arrival of the Spanish in Mexico up to modern days. When I purchased the book, I was hoping to find a book written for adults. Yet, I was not dissatisfied. The book's production values are very high and I really enjoyed the art work.

Finally a young persons book with a different perspective on cowboys. The origins and role of the vaquero in America is discussed in a scholarly and insightful manner geared for young readers. If you are looking for a book about the traditional view of the cowboy than look elsewhere. The author, Russell Freedman does an excellent job describing how the Vaqueros were the first of their kind, their role in rodeos, where and how they lived on haciendas and ranchos, what they did at rodeos , the tools they used , the contests and games and the last of the vaqueros. These original cowherders were poor Indian laborers who were subject to the rich Spanish land owners who dominated the landscape of America after the conquest by the European Spaniards. This book is a good history lesson about life in the southwest and Mexico(one and the same at this particular point in history)during Spanish rule. This book is an excellent choice for a classroom or library in the middle or high school level for further enrichment in the education process. Limited English speaking students may find the language difficult but there are many Spanish words intersperced throughout the lessons to draw their interest. The drawings and photographs are well done; I only wish this book was presented in a larger format. This is a good book for a student to write a book report on and share the information within to the class. Highly recommended for students and adults alike who enjoy history.

If you like western history this book might really open your eyes with respect to where our cowboy culture started. A fast read, but has many really nice illustrations. It should be in the library of ever cowboy, and wannabe.

This book is about the history of the Spanish coming to the Americas and settling what is now the Southwestern US. The text content is appropriate for mid to upper elementary. This book could be appropriate for upper elementary English language learners. Although a picture book, the book uses museum art. English language learners, for example, might enjoy studying the paintings even if they cannot read the words. This stunningly beautiful book contains content that will enrich the understanding of all students and the pride of students who emigrate from Mexico.

I loved this book so much, that after I read it at the Library, I bought it over . It is intended for young people, but since I was doing research for a book I am writing, I didn't want to be overloaded with dry facts. This book gave me just enough, not too much, and the artwork is wonderful too.

Good - I just do not like the brutality! But good photos and art work that enhance the text!

Excellent! Comprehensive, colorful.

Nice book if you like history

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