

Great Rivals in History

To make this list, each rivalry has been written about either in a dedicated chapter or in an entire book. The list of books used thus far can be found below the rankings and will be added to as I find more. Additionally, I only listed one-on-one individual rivalries, and I only listed rivalries where both individuals were famous enough to have an entry in Pantheon.world. You can read about their methodology and their HPI scores at <https://pantheon.world/data/faq>

The "Rank" column represents their rank in the listed "Occupation." The rivalries are sorted by their average HPI scores (exported 2/2021).

For HPI reference (using 2020 scores): 100th HPI = 89.90, 500th = 84.48, 1,000th = 81.77, 5,000th = 74.36, 10,000th = 70.44.

	Years	Country	Occupation	Rank	HPI		Years	Country	Occupation	Rank	HPI	Avg
Leonardo da Vinci	1452-1519	Italy	Inventor	1	97.46	Michelangelo	1475-1564	Italy	Painter	1	94.64	96.05
Plato	427-347 BC	Greece	Philosopher	2	95.73	Aristotle	384-321 BC	Greece	Philosopher	1	96.06	95.90
Isaac Newton	1643-1726	UK	Physicist	1	96.84	Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz	1646-1716	Germany	Mathematician	4	88.60	92.72
Nikola Tesla	1856-1943	Croatia	Inventor	4	92.13	Thomas Edison	1847-1931	USA	Inventor	2	92.59	92.36
Mahatma Gandhi	1869-1948	India	Activist	3	91.71	Winston Churchill	1874-1965	UK	Politician	20	89.73	90.72
Albert Einstein	1879-1955	Germany	Physicist	2	94.79	Niels Bohr	1885-1962	Denmark	Physicist	9	85.96	90.38
Alexander the Great	356-323 BC	Macedonia	Military	2	96.43	Darius III	380-330 BC	Persia	Politician	142	84.03	90.23
Joseph Stalin	1879-1953	Georgia	Politician	8	92.61	Leon Trotsky	1879-1940	Ukraine	Politician	47	87.77	90.19
Sigmund Freud	1856-1939	Czechia	Psychologist	1	93.67	Carl Jung	1875-1961	Switzerland	Psychologist	2	86.42	90.05
Henri Matisse	1869-1954	France	Painter	19	86.34	Pablo Picasso	1881-1973	Spain	Painter	3	92.24	89.29
Elizabeth I of England	1533-1603	England	Politician	12	90.91	Mary I of Scotland	1542-1587	Scotland	Politician	58	87.23	89.07
Julius Ceasar	100-44 BC	Rome	Politician	2	95.84	Pompey	106-48 BC	Rome	Politician	274	81.82	88.83
Richard I of England	1157-1199	England	Politician	70	86.72	Saladin	1138-1193	Iraq	Politician	13	90.87	88.80
Rene Descartes	1596-1650	France	Philosopher	7	92.74	Pierre de Fermat	1601-1665	France	Mathematician	11	84.48	88.61
Galileo Galilei	1564-1642	Italy	Astronomer	1	95.35	Pope Urban VIII	1568-1644	Italy	Religion	109	81.65	88.50
Adolf Hitler	1889-1945	Austria	Politician	3	95.49	Ernst Rohm	1887-1934	Germany	Military	43	80.35	87.92
Chiang Kai-Shek	1887-1975	China	Military	12	84.65	Mao Zedong	1893-1976	China	Politician	22	89.64	87.15
Hannibal Barca	247-182 BC	Tunisia	Politician	18	90.14	Scipio Africanus	235-183 BC	Rome	Politician	214	82.69	86.42
Napoleon Bonaparte	1769-1821	France	Politician	1	95.88	Duke of Wellington	1769-1852	UK	Politician	880	76.95	86.42
Francis I of France	1494-1547	France	Politician	148	83.87	Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor	1500-1558	Belgium	Politician	36	88.24	86.06
John F Kennedy	1917-1963	USA	Politician	45	87.77	Richard Nixon	1913-1994	USA	Politician	139	84.09	85.93
Edouard Manet	1832-1883	France	Painter	27	85.41	Edgar Degas	1834-1917	France	Painter	32	84.54	84.98
Charles XII of Sweden	1682-1718	Sweden	Politician	262	82.04	Peter the Great of Russia	1672-1725	Russia	Politician	44	87.89	84.97
Wallis Simpson	1896-1986	USA	Celebrity	1	84.96	Queen Elizabeth	1900-2002	UK	Nobleman	8	84.75	84.86
Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres	1780-1867	France	Painter	34	84.10	Eugene Delacroix	1798-1863	France	Painter	28	85.30	84.70
Philip IV of France	1268-1314	France	Politician	105	85.36	Pope Boniface VIII	1235-1303	Italy	Religion	94	82.26	83.81
Luigi Galvani	1737-1798	Italy	Physicist	28	81.27	Alessandro Volta	1745-1827	Italy	Physicist	8	86.22	83.75
Jules Poincare	1854-1912	France	Mathematician	26	81.28	Bertrand Russell	1872-1970	UK	Mathematician	10	84.90	83.09
Ulysses S Grant	1822-1885	USA	Politician	24	89.27	Robert E Lee	1807-1870	USA	Military	129	75.75	82.51
Harry S Truman	1884-1972	USA	Politician	172	83.40	Douglas MacArthur	1880-1964	USA	Military	30	80.90	82.15
Ernest Hemingway	1899-1961	USA	Writer	28	87.47	Gertrude Stein	1874-1946	USA	Writer	395	75.63	81.55
Charles Dickens	1812-1870	UK	Writer	29	87.27	William Thackeray	1811-1863	UK	Writer	423	75.27	81.27
Herbert Hoover	1874-1964	USA	Politician	696	77.94	Martin Luther King Jr	1929-1968	USA	Activist	10	84.34	81.14
Filippo Brunelleschi	1377-1446	Italy	Architect	7	83.47	Lorenzo Ghiberti	1378-1455	Italy	Sculptor	7	78.53	81.00
John Wallis	1616-1703	UK	Mathematician	112	72.39	Thomas Hobbes	1588-1679	UK	Philosopher	20	88.52	80.46
Roald Amundsen	1872-1928	Norway	Explorer	9	86.13	Robert Falcon Scott	1868-1912	UK	Explorer	46	74.24	80.19
Humphry Davy	1778-1829	UK	Chemist	19	78.63	George Stephenson	1781-1848	UK	Inventor	14	81.49	80.06
Robert F Kennedy	1925-1968	USA	Politician	581	78.74	Lyndon B Johnson	1908-1973	USA	Politician	306	81.33	80.04
Vasily Chuikov	1900-1982	Russia	Military	105	76.57	Friedrich Paulus	1890-1957	Germany	Military	22	81.92	79.25

Guido Reni	1575-1642	Italy	Painter	104	77.51	Pope Innocent X	1574-1655	Italy	Religion	138	80.67	79.09
Francisco Pizarro	1471-1541	Spain	Explorer	13	84.04	Diego de Almagro	1475-1538	Spain	Explorer	51	73.63	78.84
William the Conqueror	1028-1087	France	Nobleman	22	81.16	Harold Godwinson	1022-1066	UK	Politician	992	76.42	78.79
John Constable	1776-1837	UK	Painter	133	76.36	J M W Turner	1775-1851	UK	Painter	59	81.00	78.68
George Patton	1885-1945	USA	Military	83	77.79	Bernard Montgomery	1887-1976	UK	Military	55	79.03	78.41
Niccolo Tartaglia	1499-1557	Italy	Mathematician	52	76.72	Gerolamo Cardano	1501-1576	Italy	Mathematician	34	79.77	78.25
Pancho Villa	1878-1923	Mexico	Military	98	76.82	Emiliano Zapata	1879-1919	Mexico	Activist	25	78.15	77.49
Henry II of England	1133-1189	England	Politician	430	80.00	Thomas Becket	1119-1170	England	Religion	467	74.56	77.28
Giovanni Baglione	1566-1643	Italy	Painter	702	65.97	Caravaggio	1571-1610	Italy	Painter	11	88.46	77.22
Jackson Pollock	1912-1956	USA	Painter	57	81.37	Willem de Kooning	1904-1997	Netherlands	Painter	236	72.49	76.93
Leopold Kronecker	1823-1891	Germany	Mathematician	100	73.21	Georg Cantor	1845-1918	Russia	Mathematician	31	80.15	76.68
Jacob Bernoulli	1654-1705	Switzerland	Mathematician	78	75.25	Johann Bernoulli	1667-1748	Switzerland	Mathematician	43	78.07	76.66
Edmund Burke	1729-1797	UK	Politician	612	78.48	Thomas Paine	1737-1809	UK	Writer	461	74.75	76.62
Rosalind Franklin	1920-1958	UK	Biologist	17	78.69	Maurice Wilkins	1916-2004	New Zealand	Physicist	137	73.50	76.10
Johann Joachim Winckelmann	1717-1768	Germany	Historian	20	77.61	Anton Raphael Mengs	1728-1779	Czechia	Painter	181	74.13	75.87
Camillo Golgi	1843-1926	Italy	Physician	30	76.47	Santiago Ramon y Cajal	1852-1934	Spain	Physician	50	74.96	75.72
William Wordsworth	1770-1850	UK	Writer	274	77.48	Samuel Taylor Coleridge	1772-1834	UK	Writer	554	73.85	75.67
David Hilbert	1862-1943	Germany	Mathematician	23	81.54	LEJ Brouwer	1881-1966	Netherlands	Mathematician	163	69.77	75.66
Judith Leyster	1609-1660	Netherlands	Painter	316	70.83	Frans Hals	1582-1666	Belgium	Painter	66	80.45	75.64
Benjamin Disraeli	1804-1881	UK	Politician	910	76.77	William Gladstone	1809-1898	UK	Politician	1902	73.24	75.01
Lucian Freud	1922-2011	Germany	Painter	273	71.84	Francis Bacon	1909-1992	UK	Painter	108	77.26	74.55
Thomas Henry Huxley	1825-1895	UK	Biologist	19	78.23	James Joseph Sylvester	1814-1897	UK	Mathematician	141	70.79	74.51
Mark Twain	1835-1910	USA	Writer	30	87.04	Bret Harte	1836-1902	USA	Writer	3309	61.67	74.36
Albert Sabin	1906-1993	Russia	Physician	63	73.91	Jonas Salk	1914-1995	USA	Physician	80	72.81	73.36
Luc Montagnier	1932-Pres	France	Biologist	12	79.40	Robert Gallo	1937-Pres	USA	Biologist	190	67.15	73.28
Robert Gallo	1937-Pres	USA	Biologist	190	67.15	Luc Montagnier	1932-Pres	France	Biologist	12	79.40	73.28
Sinclair Lewis	1885-1951	USA	Writer	793	71.55	Theodore Dreiser	1871-1945	USA	Writer	466	74.69	73.12
Sir Fred Hoyle	1915-2001	UK	Astronomer	37	73.79	Sir Martin Ryle	1918-1984	UK	Astronomer	58	71.50	72.65
Truman Capote	1924-1984	USA	Writer	331	76.50	Gore Vidal	1925-2012	USA	Writer	1346	68.23	72.37
Vo Nguyen Giap	1911-2013	Vietnam	Military	75	78.10	Christian de Castries	1902-1991	France	Military	679	66.52	72.31
Samuel Richardson	1689-1761	UK	Writer	777	71.68	Henry Fielding	1707-1754	UK	Writer	769	71.75	71.72
Edmund Wilson	1895-1972	USA	Writer	3666	60.83	Vladimir Nabokov	1899-1977	Russia	Writer	113	82.16	71.50
Emile Borel	1871-1956	France	Mathematician	120	71.79	Ernst Zermelo	1871-1953	Germany	Mathematician	148	70.33	71.06
Alfred Wegener	1880-1930	Germany	Geologist	1	80.64	Sir Harold Jeffreys	1981-1989	UK	Mathematician	542	61.42	71.03
Edward Drinker Cope	1840-1897	USA	Archaeologist	6	74.71	Othniel Charles Marsh	1831-1899	USA	Archaeologist	24	66.66	70.69
Alexander Hamilton	1755-1804	USA	Economist	43	72.89	Aaron Burr	1756-1836	USA	Politician	4719	68.23	70.56
Tom Wolfe	1930-2018	USA	Writer	1288	68.49	John Updike	1932-2009	USA	Writer	851	71.18	69.84
Benedict Arnold	1741-1801	USA	Military	552	68.05	Horatio Gates	1727-1806	UK	Military	1212	61.42	64.74
John Singleton Copley	1738-1815	USA	Painter	1101	62.17	Benjamin West	1738-1820	USA	Painter	803	65.05	63.61
Craig Venter	1946-Pres	USA	Biologist	245	65.69	Francis Collins	1950-Pres	USA	Biologist	498	61.38	63.54
David Sarnoff	1891-1971	Belarus	Businessperson	271	63.25	Philo Farnsworth	1906-1971	USA	Inventor	219	63.58	63.42
Lillian Hellman	1905-1984	USA	Writer	2905	62.82	Mary McCarthy	1912-1989	USA	Writer	3854	60.31	61.57
Richard Leakey	1944-Pres	UK	Anthropologist	47	61.16	Donald Johanson	1943-Pres	USA	Archaeologist	59	61.31	61.24

Books Used

Bad Blood: Rivalry and Art History, by Clayton Schuster
Gandhi & Churchill: The Epic Rivalry that Destroyed an Empire and Forged Our Age, by Arthur Herman
Gods of War: History's Greatest Military Rivals, by James Lacey and Williamson Murray
Great Feuds in History, by Colin Evans
Great Feuds in Mathematics, by Hal Hellman
Great Feuds in Medicine, by Hal Hellman
Great Feuds in Science, by Hal Hellman
Great Feuds in Technology, by Hal Hellman
Great Rivals in History: When Politics Gets Personal, by Joseph Cummins
Literary Feuds: A Century of Celebrated Quarrels--From Mark Twain to Tom Wolfe, by Anthony Arthur
Literary Rivals: Feuds and Antagonisms in the World of Books, by Richard Bradford
Mutual Contempt: Lyndon Johnson, Robert Kennedy, and the Feud that Defined a Decade
Quantum: Einstein, Bohr, and the Great Debate about the Nature of Reality, by Manjit Kumar
Scientific Feuds: From Galileo to the Human Genome Project, by Joel Levy
The Art of Rivalry: Four Friendships, Betrayals, and Breakthroughs in Modern Art, by Sebastian Smee
The Cave and the Light: Plato Versus Aristotle and the Struggles for the Soul of Western Civilization, by Arthur Herman
The Feud That Sparked the Renaissance: How Brunelleschi and Ghiberti Changed the Art World, by Paul Robert Walker
The Great Debate: Edmund Burke, Thomas Paine, and the Birth of Right and Left, by Yuval Levin
The Lost Battles: Leonardo, Michelangelo and the Artistic Duel That Defined the Renaissance, by Jonathan Jones
The Wizard and the Prophet: Two Remarkable Scientists and Their Dueling Visions to Shape Tomorrow's World, by Charles Mann