

Your student was instructed to list at least three common contributing factors that led to the various Indian wars in colonial times and to summarize his points in the space provided below the triangle.

- At first, Native American tribes were on fairly friendly terms with white settlers. They relished the trading opportunities and were often instrumental in the survival of European colonies (as noted in our studies of Jamestown and Plymouth).
- Generally speaking, as colonists kept coming in more and more numbers and took up farming, they felled trees and built fences that intruded on the lands that Indians had used as hunting or living grounds for centuries.
 - At first, the Europeans enjoyed a significant technological advantage in the guns and cannons they employed. Native Americans had no metallurgy; they used bows and arrows or clubs in hand-to hand combat. Secrecy and woodcraft aided their warfare.
 - It was initially illegal to sell guns, munitions, or liquor to the Indians; however, profits tempted men to do so anyway. Thus, over time the Indians became as skilled as the Europeans with firearms, and the sides grew evenly matched militarily.
 - Both Indians and colonists had, at different times, attacked each other, and this increased the distrust between them.
 - In most cases, it was one individual or tribe who led others into war.
 - Misunderstanding between the Native Americans and colonists were frequent, because of differences in culture and ways of thinking.

Sample summary of the way three of the points list above contributed to wars between the Indians and the colonists: "Despite attempts to live peaceably, the steady increase of colonists in North America, the different ways of life between the colonists and the Indians, and the misunderstandings that occurred because of their different ways of thinking led to open hostilities such as King Philip's War."