Conneticut!

Home of Litchfield __ School, the oldest in America, established 1784
Home of __ University, an "Ivy League" school founded in 1701
__ explorer Adriaen Block discovered the Connecticut River in 1614
Became the __ state on January 9, 1788
George W. Bush was born in New __ Connecticut, July 6, 1946
In 1877 home of the first pay __ and first public phone exchange
State name comes from native terms for "beside the long tidal __"
The state insect is the Praying __
In 1846, Elias Howe received a patent for the first __ machine
Provided most of the food and __ for the Revolutionary War
The __ Oak is a historical tree symbolizing the people's independence
Colonial factories were so productive, they drew complaints from __
The oldest public __ in America is in Salisbury, Connecticut, 1771
Noah __ published the first American dictionary here in 1783
One of the thirteen original __, established in 1662
The highest point in the state is Mt. __ at 2380 feet elevation
Capital of the state and insurance world
USS __, world's first nuclear submarine was built in Groton, 1954
Home of the first __ published in America, the Connecticut Courant
The state's largest city, with about 140,000 people
Industries: Transportation and __ equipment, machinery, insurance
__ on the state flag symbolize people from the Massachusetts colony
Home of the first __ friction matches, hamburger and color TV
Bordered by Massachusetts, ____, New York and Long Island Sound
Lebanon, Connecticut declared its __ long before 1776
State motto: "Qui transtulit sustinet": "He who __ still sustains"
State song from the Revolutionary War era, adopted in 1978
____ has more water-covered area than Connecticut has land area

Enter unused letters from puzzle, in order:

__ __ __ __ __ __
__ __ __ __ __ __ __
__ __ __ __ __ __ __

Copy boxed letters to form your hidden message:

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