

In the key of C, the solfege pitch “La” is the note A.

<i>Do</i>	<i>Re</i>	<i>Mi</i>	<i>Fa</i>	<i>Sol</i>	<i>La</i>	<i>Si</i>	<i>Do</i>
C	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
Root	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	Root
3	0	2	3	0	2	0	1

If we step through an octave beginning with the note A, the following results:

<i>La</i>	<i>Si</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>Re</i>	<i>Mi</i>	<i>Fa</i>	<i>Sol</i>	<i>La</i>
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A
Root	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	Root
2	0	1	3	0	1	3	5

This particular scale would most commonly be known as *A natural minor*.

Notice that a C scale and an A minor scale contain the same pitches. Neither scale has any sharps or flats. The key signatures for C major and A minor are the same. C Major and A Minor are therefore known as *relative keys*.

The sixth degree of a major scale is the root of its relative minor. The third degree of a minor scale is the root of its relative major. “Do” and “La” are relative major and minor.

We can see that in the key of A minor the half steps occur between B and C (the 2nd and 3rd) and E and F (the 5th and 6th). Therefore, the formula for a natural minor scale is:

whole step - half step- whole step - whole step - half step - whole step - whole step

which can be summarized as W,H,2W,H,2W where W=whole step and H=half step.