**OCTAVES**

What happens when we go through the twelve notes of the musical alphabet?

We arrive at our starting note again, but up one ‘octave’. In the image above, we started from ‘A’, went through each note and then finished on ‘A’ again. It’s important to understand that the second ‘A’ is up one octave from the original.

As an exercise on the guitar, **play any open string**. Now play that same string on the **12th fret.** You have just played the same note up one octave. You should be able to hear that they are effectively the same notes, but in a different range.

The **6th string and 1st string of the guitar are both ‘E’ notes**. If you play them at the same time, you will hear that they blend perfectly with each other (because they are the same note). These two notes are two octaves apart from each other.

Starting From Open Note

This may be obvious, but it’s also important to point out that the distance between an open note and the 1st fret is a semitone, just as the distance between the 1st fret and the 2nd fret is a semitone.

If you think of it in numbers, an open note is a ‘0’, therefor ‘0’ to ‘1’ is one semitone (or one fret). ‘0’ to ‘2’ is two semitones (or two frets).